CHICAGO USERS GROUP

PRESENTS

CHICAGO TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO TI-99/4A USERS GROUP

RENEW NOW!
IT'S WORTH IT!

SEPT. 30 1987
EDITOR: Carole Goldstein

THE OCT MEETING. . . .

will be held on Saturday Oct. 3, 1987 from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Fireside Lounge at Triton College.

IN THIS ISSUE...

THE DISASSEMBLY	Dave Wakely	Page 3
FULL DUPLEX	Irwin Goldstein	Page 7
BASICALLY YOURS	Rich Klein	Page 8
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN SPEAKS	Don Jones	Page 11
PROCESSED DATA	Sandy Bartels	Page 16
FAIRE UPDATE	Marcy Brun	Page 17
SOFTWARE REVIEW	Paul Farber	Page 21
A SPAD FLIGHT ADVENTURE	Dave Wakely	Page 24
TRADING TImes		Page 27
NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES		Page 28
BASIC ASSEMBLER	Steve Peacock	Page 29
HIGH RES GRAPHICS ON THE TI	Anne Dhein	Page 31
PASCAL ADVANTAGE	Mike Maksimik	Page 35
LIBRARY SHELF	Bob Demeter	Page 38
RAM BUGS	Texincia Lubbock	Page 42
REMarks	Carole Goldstein	Page 40

Contributing artists: Buzz Krantz, Dan Gronowski, Danny Goldstein and Anne Dhein

BULLETINS:

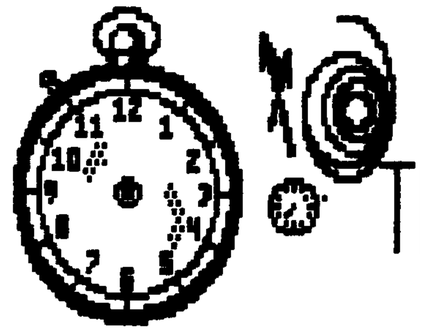
UG HOT LINE NUMBER IS (312)657-1093.

The Beginners SIG and Pascal SIG will meet shortly after the meeting.

MEETING DATES FOR THIS COMING YEAR ARE AS FOLLOWS:

OCT 3 NOV 7 TI FAIRE DEC 5

The Chicago TImes is published 10 TImes a year, monthly, except during June and July. Chicago TImes is not affiliated with Texas Instruments in any way and is supported only by its subscribers and advertisers. Subscriptions are free with membership in the Chicago TI99/4A User's Group. The Chicago TImes is also distributed free to any other User's Group that wishes to reciprocate. Articles contained herein may be re-printed by another User's Group Publication provided credit is given to the Chicago TImes as the original source of the article. Comments and letters are welcome, as is the submission of original articles and programs.



THE DISASSEMBLY

Dave Wakely

The meeting; The flood; Upcoming plans; Elections; Up, Up and Away; Other THings:

It seemed to me that there were about 120-150 people at the September meeting, which is not bad considering that the weather was great. According to membership chairperson Don Jones, this group is now up to almost 700 members. Curiosly, several years ago, when the group was around 250 members, about the same number of people attended meetings. The reason for this is that the majority of our members are now out of town "non-attenders". This is perfectly acceptable, but means that the meeting presentations are going to be of interest only to a minority of the members. This month the meeting started with a large number of announcements, which was understandable after the summer break. Among other things, Butch Goldstein, our former group president and BBS Sysop, cleared up some questions about the board. Don Jones, after filling us in on the latest news about the plans for the Faire, led off the year with a review of the Myarc Ram Disk. Perhaps our group hardware system had gotten a little rusty over the summer as well, since Don had some hardware difficulty getting the unit to jump through the appropriate hoops. The audience was patient, however, and eventually Don was able to put the Myarc RD through it's paces. He chose to demo it with the latest version of Funlwriter. This seems to be the first thing users do with a Ram Disk, and it makes sense. If not Funlwriter, then some other menu system will optimize a ram disk for user friendliness. There was also some talk in the audience about "Grand Ram", a new RD which for now appears to underprice the competition of Myarc and Horizon. This is good news for the users. As near as I can tell, all three will work with the 9640.

Bob Demeter, looking fully recovered from his health problems of the spring, demonstrated three new programs in the library. He started off with "Wheel of Fortune". Yes, the game show. Chicago TImes editor Carole Goldstein filled in as Vanna, and Bob invited members of the audience to come up and spin the wheel. Both the concept and the inplementation were well done, and I suspect that W of F moved well when the library opened after the meeting. Next Bob demoed TI-KEYS, a freeware program that is a knock-off of Techni-Graphics' PC-KEYS, the original "control key redefinition" program by group member Jim Kryzak. Both programs allow "one touch" operation. Once a key is redefined, you can press CTRL 1 (for example) and the word RUN will pop up on the bottom of the screen. Press enter and it is executed. No more retyping of repetitive commands. I'm probably somewhat biased because I still use my original PC-KEYS, but TI-KEYS does a good job of emulating version 1 of PCK. Recall, however, that Techi-Graphics is now selling version 2, which includes a pop-up notepad and calculator. All of this reminds me that I have yet to upgrade to version 2, which I will be doing soon. However, it is hard to argue with the price of TI-KEYS, which is freeware. Bob finished up with "TI

Tickler", a "reminder" program which is really a calendar/appointment scheduler. It appeared to do a good job of allowing a user to keep track of important dates (e.g. family birthdays) by providing a memory "tickler" (reminder). Of course this would be most useful with something like the Triple Tech clock, such that once the program was run it would read the date, and if an important event was near then remind the user about it. The program could then be set up to run from a Ram Disk whenever the computer was turned on. See how all these presentations fit together? Unfortunately, no one, including me, thought to ask if TI Tickler could be modified to run this way. In any event, it's in the library if someone would like to find out.

Several vendors were in attendance at the meeting, and there appeared to be a lot of activity around their tables. Must have been all that money everyone saved up over the summer. Afterwards, the Beginner's and the Pascal SIGs met, and in general we all got to say hello again to our TI friends we hadn't seen since June.

AND NOW, THE PERIPHERAL EXPANSION SURF BOARD: Those of you who now make up the majority of this group live outside the Chicago area. You may have heard, however, about some of the weather problems we had during August. It turns out that several of our members had the misfortune to live in the flood plain of the Des Plaines River, which also happens to flow past our home, Triton College. Our Bulletin Board system was down when Carole Goldstein got up one morning to find the room it is housed in filling up with water (it was eventually rescued and went back on line shortly). Probably hardest hit, however, was group member Jack Topham. Anyone who reads the ChiTImes knows Jack. He wrote a software/hardware review column and regularly reviewed the dozens of newsletters which we receive from other users groups around the country. He had also just agreed to take over as the meeting coordinator, lining up the various speakers and presentations for our meetings. Jack reportedly got "ten feet of water in an eight foot basement." Much of his home, and ALL of his TI hardware and software, were destroyed. Fortunately, he DID HAVE insurance, but he also described his TI system as "special" and irreplaceable. We even offered to help him out by a long-term loan of replacement equipment, but Jack was understandably devastated by the loss, and declined. I hope he eventually changes his mind, but meanwhile we all wish him better luck in whatever he does. As I recall, Jack came to the group a few years ago after being transferred here from the L.A. area. From the beginning he characterized the volunteer spirit of this group and the TI community in general, and Jack, you too are irreplaceable. Good luck to you and your family. I don't know if the Tophams are even living in the house at present, but if you want to send notes of condolence or encouragement to the group address, we will find a way to forward them to him.

With Jack's sudden departure, Chuck Levitt has agreed to temporarily pinch-hit as meeting chair, and will be lining up things for the October meeting. Since this newsletter deadline is only four days after the September meeting, I know nothing about those plans, but we will probably get a note in here before it goes to the printer, informing you of the meeting agenda.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS: It is time once again for the group elections. Actually, we are getting an early start this year so that paper ballots can be used. We need to do this so that those who do not attend the meetings can vote. As luck would have it, we came up with exactly four candidates to fill the four positions. The ballot can be found somewhere

in this newsletter. Of the four, Marcy Brun and Len Rovner are running again for positions they already hold, Don Jones has been our membership chair for several years and is coordinating this year's Faire, and Hank Ellermann has been a group member for over five years and has always been willing to lend a hand for a large number of projects and jobs over those years. He also may have spent more hours in front of a TI-99/4A than anyone else in the group, with the possible exception of some Assembly language programmers (and aren't they usually the exceptions?). Note that there is space at each office for you to write-in the person of your choice. After all the ballots are counted they will be burned, and if the smoke is white we have a new group president, and if it is black we all have to vote again (Hey, just kidding! All this news about the Pope finally got to me).

JUNIOR BIRDMEN DEPARTMENT: One of the few things I managed to do over the summer was to get in an order for the new Flight Simulator for the TI, Not Polyoptics' Spad XIII. There was a limited time sale of it in an ad in MICROpendium, and I went for it. I was surprised at how quickly my order came back, and even more surprised at receiving "Spad XIII, Mark 2". The program just came out early this spring, and already it has been upgraded. I had only seen Spad at our group demo at the April meeting, but it impressed me enought to want it. Having had it for a few weeks now, I am even more impressed. A review in MICROpendium (March, '87) was positive, but perhaps didn't go far enough. More later on my comments about the program, for now, first things first, and first is the upgrade.

The two page addendum to the manual notes that one option now available is to fly against the "Red Baron". At the title screen you are asked "Red Baron (Y/N)?", and if you respond affirmatively you will have a fairly worthy opponent in the skies. While it is not all that difficult to shoot down the Baron (I got him on two of my first five tries), he is also not one of the wimpy "observation planes" seen in version 1. He is programmed to seek you out and attack. The big problem is finding him. He will constantly attempt to find a way to get behind you and get you in his gun sights. This demands constant attention to the skies around you, all while you are trying to fly the plane. If you are a rookie flier, you will probably be in trouble. So dogged is the pursuit of the Baron that this option turns Spad into an arcade game. For example, the Baron has the decided tendency to hang around your airfield waiting for you to take off. If you take off at the wrong moment he has a perfect shot at you. Not very fair? No one ever said war was fair.

Personally, I appreciated the comments in the Spad manual about WWI being a bloody mess that killed a significant percentage of the male population of Europe. There is also no reason why Spad has to be a war game. It is, after all, a darned good flight simulator. I felt that the review which appeared in MICROpendium was a fair one, but perhaps understated the real attraction of this program. It was some time ago that I realized that I was approaching an age where my reflexes no longer allowed me to really enjoy most arcade games, and my game use of the TI has dwindled to practically nothing. It is also probably no secret to readers of this column that I also own an IBM clone, and when not doing "productivity" work, the most frequent program I use on that system is the Microsoft Flight Simulator. There have been, and will be, the inevitable comparisons between Spad and that program.

MICROpendium made the valid point that the grapics in the IBM version are much more detailed than Spad, but that misses the point. A good flight

simulator must do real-time 3-D graphics in a manner which convinces the user that he is experiencing a realistic simulation of flight. I am not a pilot, but I do have an imagination, and Spad succeeds admirably in making the simulation "work". Considering that it is a 32K TI Assembly language program, and that the Microsoft product requires at least 128K, Spad stands up quite well. By "real time" I mean that the time it takes to fly between two points in the simulator is the same time it would take were you to actually fly between those points, and that the graphics "move" in a manner which lend the appropriate perspective to what is seen. When this occurs, the user is absorbed into the simulation through the imagination, and this is what really makes it all work. Without an imagination, any flight simulator is only a collection of wierdly moving lines on the screen. For me, the overall effect is one of the most significant facets of personal computing. I am sitting at a computer, but in a sense I am also flying the skies over Europe, a real place I could actually to go and fly over if I were inclined to do so. As a bonus, I get to do some time travel as well. But enough of the psycho-philosophizing, and back to the review of Spad XIII, Mark 2.

Other new options in Mark 2 include use of the "I" key, which allows "hard forward stick", the counterpart to the "U" key, or hard back stick. This is mostly useful in acrobatics. The "Y" key is a right side fire key, which means you can now use the ailerons and fire at the same time. This gives you a better fighting chance with the Red Baron. Very interesting is the "I" key. It gives you a removed view of the Spad in flight. When it is pressed, you see the Spad from the perspective of about 150 feet south and slightly above your current position. The "P" key pans through each of the possible views, forward, left wing, right wing, back, up, and down, in that order, automatically. This helps you find the Red Baron, or just to check out the scenery quickly. Perhaps most significant is the "M" key. This is a "Move" option, which will instantly transport you to any of several locations. In the Microsoft FS, you can input "coordinates" from an editor, and then go directly to that spot. Up to now, all flights with Spad began at the home airfield and the only way to see the other locations was to fly there. Now you can instantly be at the Eiffel Tower, for example, any time you like. There are a few other nice touches, the most important of which have to do with handling. In Mark 2, if you turn the Spad with the aileron control by pressing the "S" key once, for example, the stick will move left, and then automatically return to the center position, and the plane will then automatically right itself and fly straight. I assume this means that in version 1, which I don't have, the stick would stay to the left, for example, until you moved it back. I can see where this might lead some inattentive pilots to quickly lose control and crash. I don't know what Not Polyoptics "upgrade" policy is for those who purchased Spad XIII, version 1, but if you at all like this program, by all means, get Mark 2!

One of the best ways I found to learn the Microsoft FS was through the books of Charles Gulick. He has written two sets of forty "Adventures" in which he guides the pilot through fanciful flights which include a running commentary on the scenery and flying in general. Combined with the power of FS, it adds to the sense of realism in the simulation, and teaches the user how to fly even better than the manual which comes with the program. It has also occured to me that this is just what we need for Spad XIII. Beginning, hopefully, with this issue I am starting a new column of "Spad Adventures" to help get you started and teach you a few things about the program. If it is entertaining as well, all the better. I also have a few other things planned for the column and will let you know about them if I can arrange them. I have one adventure all ready to go, and if it made the newsletter deadline it is in this issue somewhere. I also have several others in progress. I don't know how often they will appear, in part that will depend on your feedback. If you like the adventures, let me know by writing to the group address or seeing me at a meeting and I will keep them coming. For now, if you will allow me, I would be happy to be your "co-pilot".

SubrouTInes: You just never know when it might be dangerous NOT to show up at a user's group meeting. Rich Klein found out when he didn't show up, and in his absence was unanimously voted the new head of the Beginner's SIG, taking over from an overworked Don Jones. Way to go, Rich, I'm sure we'll see you at the NEXT meeting. Let this be a warning to the rest of you...I found it a little strange that I haven't had the time to finish the back newsletter index or the surveys, but somehow miraculously found time to spend on Spad XIII and a new column. This probably says something significant about human nature, but I am presently unprepared to say exactly what...

FULL DUPLEX

Irwin Goldstein

Wow, have we been busy here on the BBS. Our team of BBS programmers have been working hard to update the board to be the very best we can.

For starters, Nick donated his new assembly to us. This new assembly permits uploading of files greater than 127 sectors long. This has always been a limitation to use, especially since TI programs are getting increasingly more sofisticated and thus longer in length.

We also now support 2400, 1200, and 300 baud modems. This is a nice feature in that 2400 baud is really great for quick file transfers. I personally feel that 2400 baud will soon be very commonly used by the serious telecommunicator.
We added another DSDD drive to our system thus allowing another 1440 sectors open for uploading. This now gives us 1.1 megabites of upload/download storage capacity. This new drive will be devoted to the Geneve computer. If you have a Geneve now or will soon be getting one, you can count on our BBS to have a full library of programs for it.

With all this storage space now available to upload/download, we now need good programs to put in it. We need our users to transfer their non copywrited material to our BBS to share with others. As an incentive, we are paying back at the rate of 10 programs to 1. I.E. You upload one program, you may then download 10. Not too shabby a deal I think.

When you look into the download section and list the files in a particular menu, you will see the files as well as a one line description of that file. You will no longer be reuquired to list 3 or 4 lines of description when uploading and, you will no longer have to request a description of a program seperate from its listing. All these changes are designed to make the use of our bulletin board system easier and quicker.

There is another feature added that is worth speaking of here. In the past, if a user went to sleep at the keyboard, the board would sit and patiently wait for the user to wake up. Now, if he sleeps more than four minutes, its good-bye Charlie. This feature allows for more alert users.

Well, I've just about used up my alloted space,. I'll tell you more about these and other changes next uploading. BBS # is (312)966-2342, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

BASICALLY YOURS

Rick Klein

It is two days after the newsletter deadline and I'm just starting this. I guess if you think this is going to be short this month, you are thinking correctly. This month I propose to wrap up the labeler program with a listing of the two subroutines and an explanation of them. Lately I've been involved in too many things at once. I'm working 45-55 hrs, going to school two nights a week, and remodeling a service station. Between those three, I need about 12 days each week to do and I've still got other things to tend to. To say that I've been busy would be an understatement. It should ease up shortly and I can get back on track then.

Last month I discussed the main body of the program which set up some initial values and offered you some choices and did the general housekeeping in the program. This month its the routines themselves. The first routine gets the label information and stores it on a disk file in the specially coded format discussed last month. the second routine reads the information from the disk, decodes it and prints it. These routines, as always, are bare bones routines. There are a lot of cosmetic improvements that could be made, but that's not the point of this routine. Here is the first routine:

```
100 DISPLAY AT(1,6)ERASE ALL:"* CREATE FILE *" :: DISPLAY AT(12,4):"OUTPUT
DEVIC E: DSK";DEV$: : :" FILENAME: ";FN$
105    ACCEPT    AT(12,22)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("12345")BEEP:DEV$      :: ACCEPT
AT(15,14)SIZE(- 10)VALIDATE(UALPHA)BEEP:FN$
106 OPEN #1:"DSK"&DEV$&"."&FN$,OUTPUT,DISPLAY ,VARIABLE 254
110 DATA NAME:,ADDRESS:,CITY:,STATE:,ZIP:
120 RESTORE :: FOR A=1 TO 5 :: READ PR$(A):: NEXT A :: X=1 :: LG=0
130  FOR  L=1  TO  5 :: LINPUT PR$(L):ENTRY$(L):: IF ENTRY$(L)="" THEN 170
ELSE LG=L G+LEN(ENTRY$(L))):: IF LG>198  THEN  PRINT  : :"ENTRY  TOO  LONG"
:: LG=0 ::  GOTO 130
135 NEXT L :: LG=0
140 INPUT "ENTRY CORRECT? ":AN$ :: IF AN$="N" OR AN$="n" THEN 130
150   PRINT   : :"PRINTING   TO   DISK": :   :: FOR   A=1   TO   5   :: PRINT
#1:CHR$(LEN(ENTRY$(A )));ENTRY$(A);:: NEXT A :: PRINT #1:""
160 X=X+1 :: GOTO 130
170 CLOSE #1 :: RETURN
```

Explanation:

100 Clears screen and displays the title of the routine at the top of it. Then displays the text for the prompt that asks for an output device. This also displays the default device which we should have set up last month in the main bdy of the program (DEV$). It skips a few lines and then sets up prompts for the filename, again using defaults.
105 This line Accepts your input at the rows and columns specified and screens your input against the Validate clause to make sure what you entered is allowed. In this case it allows you to select a drive with a number of one through 5 inclusive. It also sets the input field size to one character long. The negative size causes this input field NOT to be cleared before input is accepted. Thus, if there is a default there (which there is) it can be accepted just by pressing ENTER. In this case

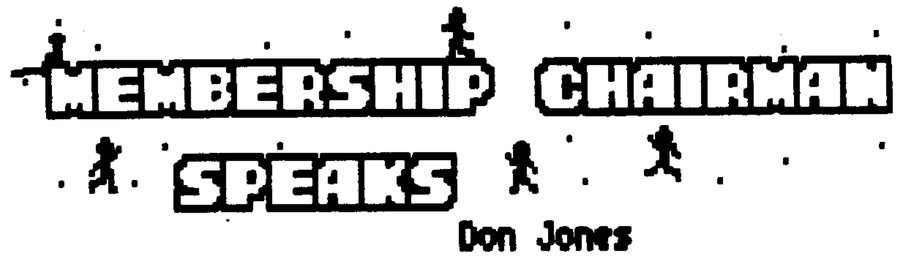
the default is one. thge next thing to Accept is the filename. the field is set to 10 characters long and a negative value is given. If there is a default name in that space already, it can be Accepted by pressing ENTER. If you choose to enter something it must be uppercase or the Validate clause won't allow it to be entered. Remember, what is already there is NOT Validated, so a default can be anything. It could crash the program, though.
106 Opens the file you just specified in Output, Display, Format with a variable record length having a maximum of 254 characters. The max filelength is purely arbitrary. I set it there to allow as much in a record as possible.
110 Contains Data for the following program lines.
120 Restores the Data pointer to the first Data statement in the program, namely the ones above. Then it starts a loop and READs the statements into a small array. Arrays with less than 10 elements need not be DIMensioned on the TI. Then a couple of variables are initialized. I'm not even sure I use the X in the program. I think I was going to use it to show the number of entries, but never did. Do what you want with it. The LG variable is used to keep track of the length of your entries to make sure the record length does not exceed 254 bytes (characters). Since nothing's been entered it's set to zero here.
130 This is the heart of the routine. It sets up a loop that asks for each of the things listed in the DATA statement. It is acceptable to use a string variable for an input prompt. The PR$(L) is the prompt and the DATA statement which was read into this variable with the value of the current subscript will be displayed as the prompt. Anything you enter will be placed in the current ENTRY$(L). Next, it checks to see if you entered a null string ("") or nothing. If so, it means you are done and it skips down to 170 to prepare to leave the routine. If not the ELSE takes you to where it adds the LENgth of the entry to the string in process and checks it to see if it is too long. The value of 198 again is purely arbitrary. If it is greater than that then an error message is printed and you have to enter that record again after the LenGth variable is reset.
135 If there are any IF...THEN...ELSE... statements in a program line, they cannot be followed by a NEXT statement in the same line, so the NEXT L which is part of the above loop is here. When the loop is finished, you are done entering data for that record. The LG variable is reset here.
140 This line asks you if your entry is correct and gives you a chance to re-enter it if it is not. Once a record is printed to disk, it is no longer available to the user for editing.
150 Would you believe this routine has two hearts? This section is also important because it does the coding. It print the message, "PRINTING TO DISK", and adds a character whose ASCII value corresponds to the records actual length. It really prints five fields, each preceded by a length byte. Notice the semicolon after the ENTRY$(A). It's a little difficult to notice because it is immediately followed by the double colon statement seperator. After the loop is finished we print a null string to the record to end it. This is because while we were in the loop, we ended each Disk Print with a ";". If this were left like this, the next record would be part of the preceding one. When you run this you might notice that the disk does not come on each time you "PRINT" t it. This is because you are actually sending the info to a disk buffer that your controller set up in memory. When that buffer gets full, then info is sent to the disk. This usually happens about every third time.
160 X is incremented and you go back and start the next record.
170 If you entered a null string in any of the fields, you end up here and the file is closed and you RETURN to the main program.

```
1000 DISPLAY AT(1,6)ERASE ALL:"* PRINT LABELS *" :: DISPLAY AT(12,4):"INPUT
DEVI CE: DSK";DEV$: : :" FILENAME: ";FN$
1005 DISPLAY AT(18,4):"OUTPUT DEVICE:":" PIO":"(BLANK FOR SCREEN)" :: ACCEPT
T(19,4)SIZE(-28)VALIDATE(UALPHA)BEEP:OD$ ::
1010 ACCEPT AT(12,21)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("12345")BEEP:DEV$ :: ACCEPT
AT(15,14)SIZE( -10)VALIDATE(UALPHA)BEEP:FN$ :: CALL CLEAR
1020 OPEN #1:"DSK"&DEV$&"."&FN$,DISPLAY ,INPUT ,VARIABLE 254 :: IF OD$<>"" TH
OPEN #2:OD$,DISPLAY ,VARIABLE 35 :: DISPLAY AT(24,1):"OUT TO CRT OR PIO?
C/P: P" :: ACCEPT AT( 24,25)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("CP"):O$
1030 IF EOF(1)THEN CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2 :: RETURN ELSE LINPUT #1:A$
1040 X=1 :: L=ASC(SEG$(A$,X,1)):: L$(1)=SEG$(A$,X+1,L):: X=X+L+1 ::
L=ASC(SEG$(A $,X,1)):: L$(2)=SEG$(A$,X+1,L):: X=X+L+1 :: L=ASC(SEG$(A$,X,1))
1050 L$(3)=SEG$(A$,X+1,L):: X=X+L+1 :: L=ASC(SEG$(A$,X,1)):: L$(3)=L$(3)&",
"&SE G$(A$,X+1,L)&", " :: X=X+L+1 :: L=ASC(SEG$(A$,X,1))
1060 L$(3)=L$(3)&SEG$(A$,X+1,L)
1070 FN=ABS(2*(O$="P")):: FOR A=1 TO 5 :: PRINT #FN:L$(A):: NEXT A :: GOTO
1030
1090 CALL CLEAR :: END
```

Explanation:

1000 Displays Title of section, prompts for an input device and filename, both with the current names as defaults. If you specified a different filename or drive number in the other section, it would be displayed as the new default here.
1005 Gets an output device. This would be a printer or if you enter a blank, the screen. This way you can review a file before printing it. Also, if you don't have a printer, but want to see how this works, then you can send it to the screen instead.
1010 Gets the file info from the screen as in the previous section.
1020 Opens the disk file as #1 and the printer file as #2 if od$ is not a null string. It then asks if you want output to the printer or screen with a P as a default.
1030 Checks to see if file #1 is at the end. If so, it closes both files and returns to the main program. If not it gets a record into A$.
1040 This is the heart of this section. I believe this section has only one heart. X is set to one and the length character is gotten from the record with the SEG$() function. Once L is gotten we use it in another SEG$() to get the first field. X is then incremented by the value of L and one more to point to the next length byte in the record. This is gotten and the process is repeated. L$(3) is set up to place commas between the last fields because this example is set up as a mailing label program. It sets the City, State and Zip on one line on the label.
1060 Finishes putting together L$(3). Notice the strings are made into larger strings with the & ampersand. Seg$() makes big strings into little ones.
1070 I think this is a neat little trick. The first statement checks to see whether or not O$ equals "P". If it does it gives the expression in the parentheses a value of negative one, meaning "true". If it is not equal to "P" then it equals zero. If you multiply this value by two, you get either zero or minus two. If you then take the ABSolute value of this result, you get zero or two. The screen can be accessed by printing to file number zero. the printer you specified is set up as file number two. So if you selected "P" for printer output FN would now equal two and if you printed to #FN then it would then go to the printer. If you selected "C" for CRT then FN would equal zero and output would be directed to #0, the screen. Neat! After that, then another loop is set up and each item is sent to the selected output device. Once completed, the next record is gotten and sent until no more records are found. Then you are returned to the main program.
1090 If you selected Exit, you are sent here, the screen is cleared and the program ends.

If this looks rushed, it is. I started late and had to finish quickly. I wasn't able to make the Sept. meeting, but I understand I was elected to head up the Beginner's S.I.G.. I'll be glad to help out there and if you have any questions concerning this material, or any other questions about basic needs, that's the place to find out. I should make the next meeting, barring unforseen circumstances. Bye for now!!!



Don Jones

Greetings to all you sports fans out there in T.I. land! It is one short month before the fifth annual Chicago Faire, and things have been becoming very active here in Chicago. Before I get to that, there are a few bits of other important business that need to be addressed. The first and most important thing is, MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

Once again, it's that time of the year, Folks. It's the time that all memberships become due for renewals. It is therefore necessary that each member, who wishes to remain a member of the group, pay his/her yearly dues. The only exceptions are those who join between September 1 and December 31 of this year. There are also a few people who renewed their memberships for two or more years, last year. In such a case, their membership cards will show the year that they are paid up to. Another exception will be those members who will be loaning the group a complete system and/or a monitor for the up-coming Faire. (In order to facilitate this operation, I will be giving to our equipment chairman certificates which he will sign and give to those members who loan the group equipment. They can be redeemed for both an on-going non-attending membership renewal, for next year and for free software from our library.) The cost of membership renewals are $15.00 between September 1 and December 31, as there is a $3.00 discount for promptness. As of January 1, the cost of a renewal will be $18.00.

If you wish to renew as a continuous or on-going non-attending member, the cost from now to the end of the year will be $18.00. (This status will automatically get you a copy of the 1988 library software sample disk and a copy of the new group's 1988 library listing, as soon as they are available.) As of January 1, the cost for that renewal status will be $21.00. If you are an over-seas member, please be sure to add $3.00 to your renewal fees, for the extra postage costs.

Relative to the new continuous or on-going non-attending membership option, I want to make it clear that it is not mandatory that out-of-town members or over-seas members

pay for this option. If you desire, you can receive the cheaper "attending" option and still remain a member in good standing. The new option is merely a convenience as it automatically guarantees you your yearly library listing up-date and a sample disk or cassette of newer programs in the library. The choice is yours.

Before I leave the subject of membership, there are just a couple of other things which I wish to remind everyone about: As of January 1, 1988, we will not be sending back-issues to those members who renew late. In order to receive the back issues, you will have to buy them or sign-up, again, as a new member. Relative to the subject of new memberships, the executive board approved my suggestion of eliminating the distinction between the attending and the non-attending member. Instead, the cost for all new membership subscriptions will be $21.00 ($24.00 for over-seas members). To me, this makes sense as all of the things contained within the membership packet for non-attending members are useful and beneficial to local, attending members. In fact, they allow a new member to become more easily and quickly integrated into the group.

If you are an out-of-towner, please get your renewal checks and money orders in as quickly as possible. Please do not send cash, and be sure to make your checks out to the Chicago T.I. 99/4A Users' Group. Also, please make sure that your Chicago T.I. Users' Group identification number is also on your check. For those who are local members and members who will be making the pilgrimage to Chicago, to attend this year's Faire, if possible, it would be appreciated if you would send in your renewal monies before the Faire as the Faire is a veritable carnival, and it seems that everybody wants to renew at that time. By renewing early, you can help us to avoid the crush.

NOW, ON TO THE FAIRE!!!!!

Yes, indeed, it appears that we're going to have a really BIG show, Folks! I doubt if the likes of this year's show have ever been seen before, out here in TI Land. A tentative list of the exhibitors and a tentative schedule of presentations can be found elsewhere in this publication. (Also, be sure to check out Marcy Brun's article.) I really feel that this Faire will be the Faire to remember. There will be a lot of new things in addition to the things which you have come to expect from us. I really think that this will be a well rounded and a well attended event.

Recently, I sent letters to all of our current over-seas members. Though it is not likely, I do hope that some of you will be able to attend. If you are, you will be our special guests at our "Saturday Night Dinner."

OUR FIRST TI WEEKEND

As you probably know, the upcoming Faire will constitute our first, ever, Chicago-Milwaukee TI Weekend. Last year, the Milwaukee Users' Group and the Wisconsin TI Council had their first ever Milwaukee TI Faire. Admittedly, it wasn't as large as the Chicago Faire, which took place the day before, but it was a significant event and an unqualified success. Towards the goal of an even larger and more successful Faire, the Milwaukee Users' Group and the Wisconsin TI Council will be holding their second annual Milwaukee TI Faire. This event is being coordinated and promoted with the Chicago Faire. It will take place the day after, Sunday, November 8, from 09:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. It will be held at the Quality Inn, 5311 South Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (For further information, write W99CC, P.O. Box 2723, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.) If you are driving, the Milwaukee Faire will be a mere 1-1/2 hour drive from the Chicago Faire as we are very close to the toll road which take you there. If you are flying, as in the case of the Chicago Faire, the Milwaukee Faire is being held very close to an airport, Mitchell Field.

We have done everything possible to make things convenient for the attendees to the Chicago/Milwaukee Faires. Our choice of the O'Hare/Kennedy Holiday Inn is an example of

how we have made things convenient. It is only ten minutes away from the Chicago Faire site, and it is very close to the tollway that leads to the Milwaukee Faire. We have also been given a special rate for all Faire attendees who use this most prestigious facility; the rate is $65.00 per night, for a single OR double occupancy. Now, Sports Fans, let us make something very clear: This year, we are using a class establishment. The O/Hare/Kennedy Holiday Inn is billed as the largest Holiday Inn in the WORLD! It has all of the amenities that one could reasonably ask for: a sauna room, a steam room, a year-round, glass enclosed, swimming pool, a game room, an exercise room, an electronic video game room, restaurants, shops, and much more. We will be using a facility which has a proven track record of quality of service. What more could one want? (In order to take advantage of our special Faire price, be sure that you make your reservations through the group. Contact Al Stump, our reservations chairman, on the group's board, the "hot-line" machine, at our P.O. Box address, or at the next meeting.)

My suggestion is that this year, you make it a real TI weekend, i.e., bring your wife or your whole family and make it into a mini-vacation. How is this for a tentative schedule?: Check in to the official Chicago Faire hotel on Friday night, attend our first ever "Friday Night Social Mixer," when the mixer is over, take a swim before retiring for the night. After breakfast, leave out for the Faire (we will be providing transportation from the hotel to the Faire). After the Faire, return to the hotel for dinner and a session in the video games room and a swim before retiring. In the morning, leave out for the Milwaukee Faire. I can guarantee you that you will have a weekend that you will never forget!

CONSIDER UPDATING YOUR SYSTEM

I strongly suggest that all you sports fans save up all of your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. The Faire will be a great opportunity for you to expand your systems. There will be new hardware AND software being premiered. The Faire will be your great opportunity to get the newest and most sophisticated software and hardware for the T.I.-99/4A computer and probably at some very competitive prices.

Let's face it, sports fans, money is always funny. It therefore pays to shop around. At the Faire, you will have a good selection of vendors who will be exhibiting their wares, both soft and hard. There will, obviously be some overlapping and duplication of efforts. When this occurs, the consumer benefits as this is the time that the prices go down as the vendors are forced to compete with each other. At the same time, let me warn you, if the prices are anything like they were last year, you had better act quickly. The biggest problem that the exhibitors had was the fact that they were unprepared for the consumers' demands for their products, and many were running out of the more popular products. Therefore, I warn you to be careful; check out the various exhibitors carefully; compare prices and promises of support. (I find that many of the vendors will have special, low, sale prices for most of their larger or more expensive items. These prices will be in effect only for the duration of the Faire. In fact, if you check out our next issue, which will be our first ever "Faire Books," you will find ads of vendors who could not make the Faire, but who wanted to advertise products at, special prices, for the Faire.) Then, before it's all gone, BUY! Don't be left out!

It seemed that last year, one of the more popular products was the RAM disk. Both the Myarc and the Horizon were big sellers. They will be back again this year, but I also expect that there will be some competition for these already excellent products. Why don't you consider one or two? The speed and the ease with which they load up larger programs like Adventure, Funnel Writer, T.I. Artist, Tunnels of Doom, etc., make them very nice and useful accessories. In addition to the RAM disks, you may also wish to consider a hard disk drive. You can find them with capacities such as 5, 10, 20, 30 megs, and up. They can hold a heck of a lot of sectors for files. Not only that, they are fairly close in speed to the RAM disk, when it comes to loading. You might also want to consider upgrading your floppy drives. Consider going double sided. Then, you can

upgrade to double density. Quad density is also available for the 99/4A. (How about some half height, 3-1/2 inch, quad drives?)

I hope that Databiotics will have its new RAM disk available and at the Faire. The update for this new product is supposed to have a cartridge slot that will hang upside down from the card inside your P.E. box. This will allow you to run T.I. off of your Geneve 9640, as it is supposed to be completely compatible with it. You can also partition it into up to four drives. I also understand that it will support John Johnson's menu program, which is presently being enjoyed by those of us with the Horizon RAM disk. At this time, this new peripheral will be available in 64K, 256K, or 512K. It will also comes with an optional clock chip that will date your programs as you save them to disk. It is also being said that it will be updgradeable to one meg! Not to be outdone, Horizon will have its new one meg RAM disk at the Faire. These RAM disks are getting sexier by the day!

Regarding software, I am keeping my fingers crossed and hoping that I will be able to find the new desk top publishing program, which is to be released soon. I will also be looking for the new TI-PC text transfer program as this will allow me to transfer texts between my 99/4A and the I.B.M. Computer and many of its clones, that non-TI friends of mine own. Hoping against hope, I really want to see the My-number program for the Geneve. This program is a clone of 1-2-3 Lotus. My, but software has become so much more sophisticated for the TI!

Besides those software and hardware items that are designed specifically for the 99/4A, there will be a large number of "generic" items which can be used with most computers on the market. There will be modems, monitors, blank disks, printers, paper, printer ribbons, buffers, etc. What are you looking for? Try and wait until the Faire as you will very probably be able to find it there and for a very reasonable price.

Now, suppose you don't want to spend a large amount of money for hardware at the Faire; there will be a lot of small items available: track balls (great for T.I. Artist or games), joy sticks, cartridge port extenders, disk storage boxes, printer stands, cables, and a lot of other things that I don't have the time or the space to mention. But if you really are low on cash, don't forget the library table. There will be a great number of new public domain programs and a large number of "fair ware" programs for sale. (Just don't forget to send a check to the author of each of the "fair ware" programs that you purchase.)

Choices, choices!!! Oh, dear, what shall I do??? Given all the decisions that you will have to make, I can see that there will be some painful choices to be made, and the condition of one's purse will be the final and determining factor

Are you beginning to feel that I'm urging you to go upon a unabashed, uncontrolled, crazed, spending spree? The answer to that is an emphatic, "YES!" I do want you to come to our Faire with the idea of learning more about our beloved machine and what's becoming available for it, but I also want you to buy! I want to see you up-grade your machines for three reasons. The first being that the more sophisticated that you make your system, the more that it can do for you, and I believe that when a less involved TI'er improves his/her computing tool, the greater is the chance that he/she will actually use it, and everyone knows, a machine that is used is a lot less likely to be consigned to the closet. The second reason that I want you to buy and up-grade your system is the fact that I want you see that, maybe, you don't need an I.B.M. or any of its clones. I want you to discover how respectable your unassuming little TI happens to be, given the proper peripherals. The last reason why I want to see our community attend the Faire and spend is that I like seeing our loyal vendors supported. By supporting them, you are supporting the people who support

(CONTINUATION) us, i.e., the TI community. In spite of the problems, where would we be without them? They therefore constitute an important reason for the continued viability of the TI community.

BUT WHERE'S GENEVE???

Did you notice that I have made few references to the new Geneve 9640 TI Compatible Computer? Well, Sports Fans, I did it on purpose. Though the 9640 is a very important addition to our TI community, this will not be a 9640 only show. The foundation of our community is the T.I.-99/4A Computer, and this shall be the emphasis of our Faire, but the Geneve will be strongly represented there too. I expect for it to be up and running as its DOS and word processing program Myword, have been recently been completed. Personally, I think that the 9640 is a very impressive machine, but I want for our Faire to show you just what you can do with just a 99/4A. Not everybody needs a 9640. Some of us want it because of what it is capable of doing, but, I contend that the 99/4A is still capable of dealing with most people's computing needs.

Relative to my feelings about the 9640, I here want to state that I am "biting the bullet," so to speak; I am scheduled to pick up my machine from a vendor, who also happens to be a friend of mine, in two days, and I expect that my future articles will be written using it. I am doing this to show my committment to the TI community and to this machine in particular. I don't want an IBM; I don't want a PC, an AT, or a XT. I am not throwing away, giving away, or selling my 99/4A. I intend to remain loyal to the TI community. I also believe that it is the most powerful computer available to the consumer; this is my belief. It is now necessary to test that belief in "fire."

COME AND MIX AT THE MIXER!!!

You may want to know why should you come to the mixer. The answer is simple: Both to learn and have fun. We will have a full 99/4A system; Geneve will be present also. We will have present some people who know a lot about the 9640 and the 99/4A. Barb Wiederhold, of the Queen Anne Computer Shoppe, will be there. So will our local Big Bob Demeter, who also knows a lot about the running of the Geneve. Don Walden, the president of the Milwaukee Users' Group and the Wisconsin TI Council will be present. There will also be a lot of other programmers, vendors, distributors, and designers present. Come and be a part of an important event.

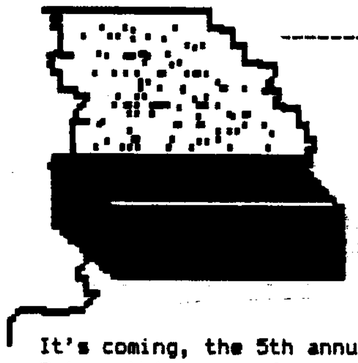
SUPPORT THE FAIRE!!!

By now, you're probably beginning to feel that the only way that you can support the Faire is by spending a great deal of money. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, there are some non-monetary ways that you can support both the group and the Faire, and I shall attempt to enumerate them: 1.) VOLUNTEER! Volunteer for a few hours of the Faire, and volunteer on an on-going basis to help the group out during the rest of the year. 2.) Attend the "Friday Night Social Mixer." Tickets are available now for $3.50. They will be $4.50 at the door. 3.) Volunteer to show some of our out-of-town visitors around after the Faire is over. 4.) If you are willing to volunteer, attend our special "Saturday Night Dinner." The chairman for this event is Paul Farber. The cost of tickets is $8.00, and it is open only to exhibitors, presentors, demonstrators, and volunteers. It will be a nice way to conclude a memorable event. 5.) Loan the group your TI system and/or monitor/tv for the duration of the Faire. We will indemnify you against any losses due to damage or loss of any of your equipment. You will therefore have nothing to lose, and if you read above, where I spoke about membership renewals, you will see that you have something to gain. Please loan us your system; the need is great. Anyone interested in doing this, please contact either Mark Harms or me. (Unfortunately, my good friend, the Mighty Buzzard, will probably have to work the day of the Faire.)

Speaking of volunteering, we can still use people to help with transportation, set-up,

break-down, traffic control, hospitality, and the monitoring of the doors of the presentation room (The Fireside Lounge), As you can see here, there are ways that you can be of service to the group that don't involve money. It is also important that you understand that this group is YOUR group, and the only way that it can be truly effective is through your actions. Please don't think that those of us who are working for you are getting paid; we aren't. We are no different from you, but I must admit that there is a great deal of satisfaction and knowledge to be gained by being involved within the group rather than coming to be merely serviced. My knowledge of my machine is much greater since, a.) I became active on various bulletin boards and b.) since I became actively involved in the group. (Thank you, Sam Pincus!) Want to get intimate with your machine? Then get involved with the group. You won't regret it, and on this, I will give you a money back guarantee!

SEE YOU AT THE FAIRE!!!!!



PROCESSED DATA

BY Sandy Bartels

It's coming, the 5th annual Chicago TI Faire, and Don Jones is going to put on a great Faire this year for you. Boy, it is going to be a fun packed day. Check all the other articles in this issue for whats going on. I'm running the Friday night mixer this year. This is a new event and I hope to see you there. Remeber that all you have to do is write to our P.O. box with a check for $3.50 and I'll send you your ticket. We will have distant vendors and out of state guests at the mixer so you will be able to meet and talk to people you have only heard or read about.

I would like to use this forum to publicly apoligize to those members that have had trouble with receiving their orders from our library. When we expanded we didn't realize that we would get the volume of orders that we received. We are like all other TI users groups. We run our group with volunteers. None of us get paid for the time we spend running our club and like all members our regular jobs have to come first. During the Spring and Summer our Head Librarian, Bob Demeter, was working 12 to 14 hours a day, and then coming home and trying to fill library orders. On top of that, we were having trouble with the post office near Bob losing our shipments. Well your Executive Committee believes we have solved all the library problems. The group now has 5 people running our library. We will be insuring all library orders over $15.00 and large orders will be going certified mail. We have worked on a system of checks to make sure that orders are not lost between receiving and filling. I hope I have taken care of any complaints. If by some chance there are members out there who are still having trouble with their library order, send a copy of your order to my attention at our group P.O. box and I will see that it will be taken care of as soon as possible.

This has been a terrible Summer for unusual weather, we have had oppressive heat and humidity, uncommon to this area, for many weeks and then in August we were bombarded with floods power outages, and brown outs. Butch and Carole Goldstein have a big thanks coming from me. They have our group BBS in their basement and during the heavy rains they had about 3 feet of water in their basement, but they managed to save the groups BBS, and Carole still managed to get out the Super Summer issue. Thank you Butch and Carole.

I would like to say I'm sorry to all the non-attending members that received their Super Summer issues late. Grant Schmalgemeier was in the hospital and wasn't able to finish the mailing on time. Grant has not feeling up to par for the last 3 or 4 months, and we hope Grant is feeling better now. Grant does so many things for our club that I would need 3 or 4 people to replace him. Take care of yourself Grant we need you!!!!!

Terrible news to report, we have lost one of our most helpful and knowledgable members. Jack Topham, is no longer with us. During the floods this summer he lost all of his TI materials, his hardware, software and all his books and papers. We all feel bad when we lose a TI member, but when we lose someone like Jack the TI community really feels it hard. Jack has a huge amount of knowledge about the TI-99/4A and the software available, but he had something else, he always made time to answer and help those who needed it. May all you have given us Jack, be returned to you many times over in the years to come.

On to something new. I have been talking to Jim Horn of Compuserve and we might have something new coming up for our club members. Watch for this article in the next couple of months. We will be starting a Geneve section in our library soon, so all you 9640 owners will have someplace where you can order some programs. See the library article for details either this month or next month.

I would like to thank my husband, Jon, who wrote the new club bylaws almost single handedly. He spent many hours at the TI. You will be seeing them in December newsletter.

All you back-to-school kids and parents, there is still a great deal of quality educational software available for the TI-99/4A. Don Jones and I will be pointing out that fact next month at an Illinois Computer Educators (ICE) conference. I will see all of you at the meeting next month. Until then Sandy says TTFN - (Ta Ta For Now).

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE FIFTH ANNUAL CHICAGO TI FAIRE

PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE 1987 TI-FAIRE by marcy brun

Hi! How is everyone doing this month? I bet some of you are happy to be returning to our monthly meetings again as I am. It sure is nice to visit with my fellow TI users. TI people are so interesting. Everyone has a different background, different type of job, different view on everything. Even different and new ways to use the TI computer. I'm really looking forward to our TI-Faire and to meet a lot of TI users that don't come to the monthly meetings. It would be nice if a lot of you could make it to the Social Mixer on Friday, November 6th at the O'hare/Kennedy Holiday Inn. We could get to know one another and become such good friends that you would want to come and visit at the monthly meetings also. Remember the price for tickets for the Social Mixer is only $3.50 in

advance and $4.50 at the door. You can contact Sandy Bartels at P.O. Box 578341, Chicago, Il. 60657 to make your reservations. Just send her a check and let her know how many tickets you would like. Don't forget to reserve a ticket for your wife or husband. I would love to meet them also.

Just incase some of you don't know where or when our TI-Faire is, here are the details:

SOCIAL MIXER: Friday, Nov. 6th 8:00pm
O'Hare/Kennedy Holiday Inn
5540 N. River Rd.
Rosemont, Il.
admission---$3.50 advance ticket
$4.50 at the door

FAIRE DATE: Saturday, Nov. 7th
9:00 am to 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Triton College
2000 N. Fifth Ave.
River Grove, Il.

ADMISSION: $3.00 per person.
Children under 12 admitted free.
Chicago Area TI-99/4a Users' Group members are admitted free with proof of current membership card.

PARKING: Next to the Student Center Building in the visitors area.

DIRECTIONS: Triton College is located 1/4 mile north of the west end of the Maywood Park Race Track. The closest highway is the Eisenhower Expressway. Use the 1st Avenue northbound exit ramp. Follow 1st Avenue north to North Avenue. Then follow the signs to Triton College. The Student Center Building is on the west side of Fifth Avenue, and the south end of the campus.

NOTICE: No video movie cameras will be aloud into the Faire.

As for the progress of the Faire, our exhibitors list has grown as you can see. There will be a few more by showtime.

Asgard Software.....software
B D Computer Supplies.....computer supplies
Bud Mills Services.....Horizon Ramdisk
Bytemaster Computer Services.....magazine
C G Drives.....disk drives, power supplies
Channel 99 Users' Group.....magazines software
Chicago B128 Users' Group.....disks, storage boxes, etc.
Chicago TI-99/4a Users' Group.....library programs, group information and membership drive, pencils, newsletters, personally made programs
Competition Computer Products.....TI products
Compuserve/TI-Forum.....communications/information service
Corporate Disk Company.....diskettes
Databionics.....software, hardware
Data Systems.....TI software
Diskmasters.....computer supplies
Disk Movers.....diskettes storage cases
Fox Valley Users' Club.....club information and membership drive
The Genial Traveller.....Diskazine, software
Genie.....communications/information service

Great Lakes Software.....Joy Paint 99, 2 all new programs to be released.
Horizon Computer Limited.....Horizon Ramdisk
Hunter Electronics.....hardware and software
L.L. Conner Enterprise.....TI hardware and software, full line of 3rd party hardware and software.
Myarc, Inc.....Geneve 9640
Queen Anne Computer Shoppe.....demo of the Geneve 9640
Rave 99 Co.....Rave 99 keyboard products
Ryte Data.....hardware and software
T.A.P.E., Ltd.....80 column card, GRAM card, 512K card
Texaments.....software including new releases
Tomputer Software.....software
Trio Software.....software
Service Solutions, Inc.....service
Will County Users' Group.....group information, membership drive

I would like to apologize ahead of time to any vendors who did not sign up early enough to get into the Faire. I'm sorry that you will be missing a chance to meet over 1,200 people who are interested in buying your products. Maybe next year we will have more space for more exhibitors.

Our seminar schedual is filling out. At this time we have schedualed Mr. Don Walden, the President of the Milwaukee Users' Group and the Wisconsin TI Council along with Mr. Don Schroeder. Also Mr. Franz Waggenbach of Mechatronics (T.A.P.E.) and Ms. Barb Wiederhold, the owner of the Queen Anne Computer Shoppe will be giving presentations. Mr. Lou Phillips, the President of Myarc, Inc. and Mr. J. Peter Hoddie, of the Boston Computer Society will also give presentations. Our own Mike ("The Frogman") Maksimik ,Dave Wakely, Sandy Bartels and Carole Goldstein are also schedualed for the seminars. Still other seminars will be announced at a later date.

Don't forget to be practicing your game skills for the Arcade Contest at the Faire. I wanted to tell you what games "The Frogman" chose, but that would be cheating. So I guess you'll have to put aside your TI-writer and other business programs for a while and enjoy playing games. Prizes will be awarded to the top scorers. We are keeping the prizes a secret, too.

Concerning our theme "T.I. Hands Around The World", a very nice personal invitation went out to all our members that live out of the United States. I know this will be a great expense, but I hope that some of them will honor us by being our guests at the Faire and its events.

We have been able to reserve one table for any TI users' groups who are not fortunate to be able to aford the amount of a booth at computer shows. Please contact me or Don Jones if you would like a seat at this table to hand out information about your group. Leave us a message on the bulletin board or write us at P.O.Box 578341, Chicago, Il. 60657 as soon as possible.

In my last article I told you that all persons that enter the Faire will receive a ticket for the door prize drawings. Well, we just sent out the Exhibitors Kits to all participating vendors, so there will be a listing of the door prizes in the next newsletter. (This is my way of keeping you in suspense.)

We are still looking for members who have their own programs to sell. As I told you before, we will have a table for you to sell software and programs (only) that YOU have made. You have to work the table for a least one hour and donate to the Group 20% of your sales. Please contact Don Jones on the bulletin board or write to him at P.O.Box 578341, Chicago, Il.60657 if you are interested no later than Oct 15th.

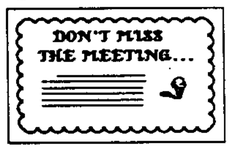
We still may need some volunteers to work at the Faire. Remember it gives you such a great feeling to say that you helped put together such a fantastic event. If you are willing to give some of your time at the Faire, just contact Don Jones and he will have a job for you. And don't forget, if you are a volunteer, you will be able to join us at a buffet dinner right after the Faire at Triton College. The cost for this is only $8.00 per person. You can reserve your ticket through Paul Farber at P.O. Box 578341, Chicago, Il. 60657. I'm sure this dinner will be filled with excitement because of a most successfull TI-Faire.

I have noticed that there are mostly men at the monthly meetings. Now come on guys, most of you are probably married. Why not surprise your wife by telling her you are taking her to the Holiday Inn for a weekend. Arrange to leave work early Friday (November 6th), or just take the whole day off. Check into the O'hare/Kennedy Holiday Inn. (Reservations must be received by Oct. 22nd to get the discounted price of $65.00 a room. Just tell them your with the TI Users Group. Their phone is 312-671-6350.) Take your wife to a nice dinner in the hotel. Then at 8:00 pm bring her to the Social Mixer where you can show her off to all the other men. Maybe even get in some romantic dancing before the night is over. The next morning have breakfast in bed through the hotel service. Then drive or be driven to Triton College for a day full of buying and learning and all around fun at the 1987 TI-Faire. (You never know. Your wife might like computing too.) When the Faire closes you can drive or be driven back to the hotel for a nice quiet dinner and maybe some dancing before retiring back up to your room to have a romantic interlude. Then Sunday morning after breakfast in bed, check out of the hotel and take a nice scenic drive to visit the TI Faire hosted by the Milwaukee Area 99/4(A) Users' Group at the Quality Inn, 5311 S. Howell Ave, Milwaukee, WI. (from 9am to 4pm). After having a wonderful, romantic weekend like this, I'm sure your wife would do anything for you. She may even like to come to the monthly meetings with you. We (women) sure would like to have her.

NEW! FROM THE CREATORS OF JOY PAINT '99 AND BANNER '99.....

CERTIFICATE '99!

CREATE CERTIFICATES, AWARDS, DIPLOMAS & LICENSES FOR YOUR SCHOOL CLUB OR BUSINESS!



EASILY MAKE FLYERS FOR THAT UP-COMING EVENT.

PRINT ADVERTISEMENTS, SIGNS AND NOTICES.....

CONGRADULATE AN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVER.

This all new 100% assembly language program is a wonderful way to recognize the efforts and achievements of someone special. CERTIFICATE 99 gives you everything you need to create exciting certificates awards, diplomas, licenses, signs and advertisements. Parchment paper and gold foil seals are included to get you started making professional looking-certificates and signs. Comes with six text fonts in two sizes, twelve different borders, twenty-four pre-designed graphics as well as signatures and seals! Prints to any EPSON/STAR GEMINI or compatible printer in single or double density. Requires 32k memory, disk system and one of the following: Ext-Basic, Ed/Assm, Mini-Mem or TI-Writer. From GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE. $19.95 plus $1.00 shipping.

GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE
804 E. Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48843

PGF software reviews

PAUL FARBER

September 1987-
Sandy Bartels has asked me to take over the software reviews for the immediate future. As some of you know, but those of you out of the Chicago area may not realize we have been blessed with a bit (9 inches) of rain in one day. Jack Topham's house is located in an area that flooded and he got 9 feet of water in a basement with an 8 foot ceiling. He has lost his entire system which, in a situation like this, is only a minor consideration.

Son of Fontwriter-FONTWRITER II- has just been released by ASGARD SOFTWARE. Those of you who already have had a copy of FONTWRITER will have received an announcement several months ago along instructions for upgrading your disks by returning them to ASGARD. Well, for those of you who aren't familiar with FONTWRITER let me give you a brief description, and then tell you what FONTWRITER II has added. Fontwriter in its simplist form is a tool which will allow you to use your imagination and create fonts that you will use in TI-ARTIST. You can either start from scratch or modify an existing font in graphics mode, literally pixel by pixel. The entire program (actually the disk contains several linked routines) is menu driven and quite easy to use. Using the same grid system you can create Instances for TI-Artist or Sprites to use in one of your Extended Basic programs. Those of you that have used some of the more expensive spreadsheet programs for Big Blue's machine are familiar with the term MACRO's. These are multiple keystroke commands that can be actuated with one keystroke. Well, Fontwriter lets you set up over 20 of these as you please to make your life easier in the designing of new fonts.

The Formatter option within Fontwriter I II gives you the ability to mix text (in any font or multiple fonts you choose) and graphics (either an Instance or a TI-Artist Pictue) in a single document. Fontwriter II upgrades the ability to do this by adding over a dozen new dot commands for your use. These dot commands are much the same as you are familiar with from TI-Writer, FunnelWriter, etc. and are prepared using an editor program. Peter Hoddie has supplied an editor program on the FONTWRITER II disk which is identical to the TI-Writer screen. Actually, my main complaint with Fontwriter II is with this editor (nit-picker that I am). It's not so much that the Show Directory option is not available since this is but a minor inconvienence but, the Exit option on the command line. This option, when used kicks you back to the TI main screen rather than back to the main menu of Fontwriter II. What this then means is that you now have to re-boot the entire program to take up where you left off. Other than this the editor works fine and is a nice compliment to the program. One "modification" I would like to see in the future is the ability to change the name of the editor files in order to correspond to the edtor names of the FunnelWeb program. This would then give you very nice integration into the FunnelWeb package.

One of the "dot" commands that is new to this new version of Fontwriter is the .LF <Load Font> command. What this little gem allows you to do is,

where ever you want within your text, load an entire new font to be used in the printout. The net result of this would be to allow you, for example, to write an article or report and change from say, Roman font for main headings, to a slanted font for paragraph titles, to elite for the text body without any extensive effort on your part. Considering that there must be at least 100 different fonts already available for TI-Artist (not counting any that you create with Fontwriter) this gives you fantastic flexability. By now I think you've caught onto the fact that this is Desk Top Publishing right at your finger tips. As a point of comparison Fontwriter II sells for a suggested $24.95 whereas a desk top publishing program for one of Big Blue's machines will go for an average of $300-$600.

One last facet of Fontwriter II that has been added since Fontwriter I is the disk dump option. Now you say, "But hey, I've been able to print out a disk catalog since TI still manufactured this machine!" That's true, but have you ben able to take a disk of CSGD and/or TI Artist fonts, TI-Artist pictures and instances, and Graphx pictures and actually print them all out. You can do this with Fontwriter II. Finally, you can have a copy of all of those fonts and pictures you have, but can't really remember what they look like.

If I've whetted your appetite for a copy see one of our local suppliers or order it direct from: ASGARD Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20850.

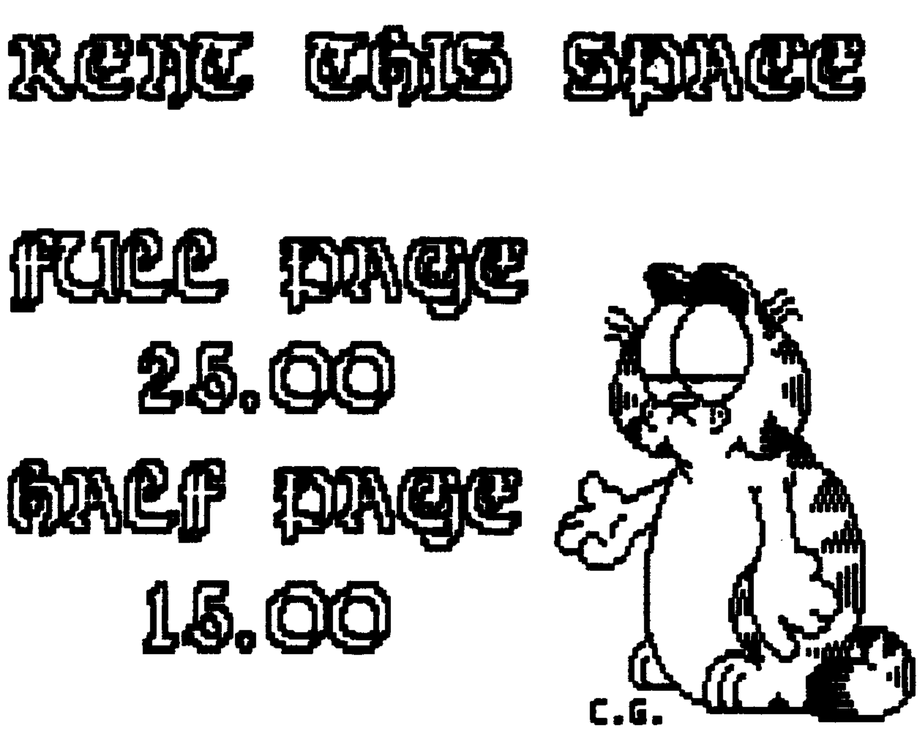
The next piece of software that I would like to review is the ENHANCED DISPLAY PACKAGE from Curtis Provance of Paragon Computing, 17 Constance Street, Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054. This is a neat package that can assist and spice up your Extended Basic Programs. The closest thing that I can compare it to, as of now, is the STAR program that was reviewed some time ago. Like STAR the Enhanced Display Package is Fairware, and available through the Group library. The disk contains a short version of the documentation, with the complete copy available from Paragon Computing after you register the program. This is a copywrited program and Paragon wants $10 for registration and a serial number (more of this later), $15 for all of that plus the complete user's manual, and $30 if you also want the source code.

What the program does is to give you 33 new or different commands to add to your Extended Basic programs. The EDP program itself is loaded in and sits in an unused part of the 99/4A's memory while your other programs are running. The EDP loader can be modified so that it calls on the program you wish to run or you can just load it and "manually" run your other programs. The 33 commands are all accessed thru CALL LINK statements and are fairly easy to use. Now, on to what some of the commands are; for a start you have DSPLAY and ACCEPT but are not limited on them to a single line of information as the maximum. Rather it is now possible to display and/or accept information up to watever size you specify (actually, the documentation states that 255 is the maximum size for ACCEPT but says nothing about a maximum for DSPLAY). A clock can be set and called up (including an alarm function), which is a good way of keeping track of time within a program without a clock card. It would take quite a few pages to discuss all of the options that are available, but I'll mention a few; (1)Creation of Windows, (2)Flashing letters, (3)Change the screen from 32 columns (graphics mode) to 40 columns (text mode), (4)Redefinition of the ASCII codes up to 159, (5)The ability to set color combinations (foreground/background) for 32 sets of ASCII

characters (0 to 255), and (6)Screen scroll. For a nice demonstration of the capabilities of the Enhanced Display Package the disk has a nice little demonstration routine that lets you check out each one individually.

Using these CALL LINK options you can put some pizzazz into what could be a dull program, or create some really neat options within an existing program. For example, how about writing a little routine using WINDOW, ACCEPT, and WRITE CALL LINKS that, at the press of say Control-S that pulls down a window, lets you make some quick notes, and then writes it off to a file on the disk. Nice little jotter routine, and all with about 5 lines of code!

Now earlier I promised to tell you something about the serial number part of the program registration. Each copy of the EDP program has a serial number imbedded in it. This is the number that is registered to a user who has sent into Paragon Computing their money. Now, 90% of you out there have, I am sure (and I'm one of the guilty) used Fairware programs without sending the author any money. Paragon has figured out that a carrot is better than a stick so, once you send in your money and receive a serial number, along with the instructons as to how to change it on the copy of EDP that you have, you're encouraged to fully distribute the disk. Each person who registers for a serial number has to send in the one on the disk that they are using. Paragon promises to rebate 30% of the contribution to the registered owner of the original disk. Who knows, maybe the greed concept widely applied may get our cadre of programmers the money they deserve for all of those great programs they have given the TI Community.



SPAD XIII: #1, The Shakedown Flight: Dave Wakely

It's a perfect day for flying. The sun is blazing, the sky is blue, and come to think of it, the ground is blue, too, but no matter. Start up, or rather, boot up, by placing your Spad XIII disk in Drive 1 and selecting Extended BASIC. If you are flying the Mark 2 version, choose "N" to the Red Baron option, since it's not a good idea to fight before you know how to fly.

It's always a good idea to check out your plane before flying, just to make sure the ground crew hasn't left any critical parts in the hangar. Look at the instument panel in front of you. The best way to interpret this is to open the Spad manual and set it up so you know what you are doing. You will discover that if you open the manual to the middle page and turn it sideways that you can put the keyboard template flat on top of the 4A console, and then the instrument panel page will sit upright up against the P.E. Box or the bottom of the monitor. Make the necessary adjustments so the page stays open and be sure you don't block any of the viewing area of the screen.

The top dial, the compass, should read straight north, the bottom dial, the fuel gauge, should point to about 10 o'clock, which indicates a full tank. Both the altitude indicator on the left, and the air speed indicator on the right should be pointing straight up to "0". If you look over your right wing by pressing the "3" key, you should see the hangar. Return to a forward view by pressing the "1" key. Now check out the ailerons. Press the "S" key, and the stick should move to the left. If you let up and the stick doesn't return to center, press the "D" key to recenter it. Now do the same for right aileron. The other stick positions will move the elevators or a combination of aileron and elevator. Check them out, too. Then turn around and look at your tail (the plane's, not your own-it is later on that we will be flying "by the seat of our pants"). Do this by first pressing the "4" key. Now press the "<" and ">" keys and check out the rudder movement. No rudder movement? That is correct. The keyboard indicates those keys, but you never see the rudder actually move. This completes the functions of the plane we can view from here. In the future, when I refer to the "pre-flight check-out", the above is what I mean.

One of the complaints I have heard about Spad is how difficult it is to find the various graphics objects on the ground. Today we are going to take a fairly lengthy flight to show you how to find things. I have taken this trip three different times, and it will take about 40-45 minutes in all, so allot your time accordingly. I will also be demonstrating how easy the Spad is to fly. Did everything check out ok? Then here we go:

Hold down the "8" key, which is the "throttle up" control. Watch as the on-screen throttle, which is below and to the left of the instrument panel, steps up in 100 RPM increments, and listen as you hear the engine rev up to it's top end of 1200 RPM. When the air speed indicator reaches 100 MPH, pull back on the stick (the "X" key) once. In Mark 2, you will hear a beep when speed reaches 100 and the stick will automatically center itself when you let up on the X key. If your version doesn't do this, take appropriate action. Press key 4 and watch the runway receeding in the distance behind you. When the tail plane (that is, the tail wing and NOT the upright rudder) appears to clear the end of the runway, cut power by two "clicks" by pressing the 7 key twice. Now look forward by pressing "1". You are in a slow, 300 foot per minute (FPM) climb and your current altitude should be around 400 feet. When it reaches 1,000 feet, apply two more down clicks and you will be at 800 RPM (trust me). The gun sight crosshairs will oscillate some above and below the horizon line, but will eventually settle down on or very near it. Don't worry if it is off a little. Your air speed should be about 110 MPH, and you are now in reasonably stable, level flight. Congratulations on a fine take-off.

When everything above has occured, we are going to execute three "pulls" on the left aileron. Press the "S" key once and watch the stick move left and then back to center. Now repeat this two more times without stopping. If, in version 1 the stick doesn't self-center, keep your eye on the compass. When it swings to the Northwest mark, begin to apply right aileron to bring the stick back, gradually levelling off until you are facing West. If you have Mark 2 this manuver is easier. The three successive pulls will result, when the plane automatically levels off, in a 90 degree left turn and you should be heading straight West. If you delay between pulls, it may take four to acheive this result. I have tried this at various speeds and altitudes, and it works most of the time. During this, don't touch the throttle! You may lose a little altitude during the turn, but it should be insignificant.

Now it's time to settle back a little and relax. Look out over the instrument panel (press "U" and the panel will disappear). Notice those "lines" on the ground ahead of you. What exactly are those? Perspective lines to give the illusion of distance? I prefer to see them as French country roads by which the local farmers can carry produce to the markets. If you have trouble with this try looking at them as fences separating farms. Now look over your left wing by pressing "2". Since we turned West, left is South, where we took off from. What happened to the home airfield? Out of sight. In fact, pan around with the "P" key in Mark 2, or manually with version 1. You will see nothing but endless fields with few distinguishing characteristics, and a sky with small white clouds (those dots or short lines) drifting lazily. It is in places like this that navigation with the Spad can be difficult. In the Microsoft FS there is a "radar" function which lets you see the plane from far above, with roads and other features visible. It is hard not to know approximately where you are. In the Microsoft simulator you fly a Cessna 182, as I recall, but somehow I doubt that the real counterpart to that plane has such a "radar" function. In that sense the Spad is probably more accurate in that planes in 1917 probably did not have advanced avionics. There is no radio to call anyone on, no VOR stations to locate. You are on your own, so you had better know where you are going.

This is also where your imagination can help out. Look out the front

again. What are those, crops down there? We're only at around 1,000 feet and should be able to make out something. Let's see, those can't possibly be vineyards, can they? The Champagne district isn't terribly far away, but it's somewhere south of Paris, isn't it? Perhaps those are barley fields out there, or am I staring too closely at the screen pixels?

About 8 or 9 minutes after the turn, a short line should suddenly pop up in front of you. What is this, some uncharted airfield? Watch it for a few minutes and you will see it grow. It will become longer and it is clearly blue. That is because you now have the Seine river in view. For a full 5 minutes you will come up on it. As you approach, it will "snake" down the screen slowly. When any part of this line touches the bottom of the screen, we are going to execute another left turn. Follow the same procedure as above to execute a 90 degree left bank turn. Try the three or four left "pulls" technique until the compass indicates that you are flying straight South. You are flying down the West bank of the river. During this, don't touch that throttle, you will settle back into level flight. If all has gone well, what you should see is the river snaking out in front of you, and away from you if you use the "4" key. Not terribly far in front you should see a left-facing "loop" in the river. Watch the area just beyond this loop for a minute or so. Suddenly a small dot will "pop" into view and slowly grow. You are approaching Paris, the City of Lights, and can already see the Eiffel Tower. This all makes sense if you refer to the map on the inside back cover of the manual. We headed North from the airfield, then West to the river, then South to Paris.

The tower may well appear to drift left on the screen. When it is more than half-way between the center of the screen and the left edge, do a single, brief left bank so that the tower "moves" back towards center. Keep it slightly to the left of center by making further adjustments as necessary to keep it on the screen. Your heading may change to SSE or SE. Now watch the tower grow in definition as it gets closer. As I recall, it was originally built for a world exposition sometime in the late 19th Century, and at our altitude we are at about the same height as the structure. There isn't anything else of Paris here which you can see, but if you want to imagine you can spot the Champs Elysee or the outdoors cafes on the left bank of the Seine where Hemingway and Gertrude Stein will hang out in another 10 or 15 years, that's all right with me. Art lovers will appreciate that you will also pass directly over the Louvre.

Press the "2" key to see the tower pass off your left wing, then the "4" key to see it receed in the distance. Since you are in level flight you can watch out the back for awhile. When the tower gets covered up by the upright tail fin of the plane, it is time to execute another turn. We will be going from roughly SE to NE, or another 90 degree turn. Use your gentle turn technique one more time. Look out over your left wing until the tower disappears, then out the back. In a few minutes first the tower, then the river will "shrink" and eventually disappear.

Now once again there is little to see here. At your leisure, you can consult the map and see why we headed Northeast. Also, if you flew at the same time of day as I did, the sun should now be over your right wing. This section of open countryside will be shorter than the earlier one, and in 3 or 4 minutes, if luck has been with you, a small line should pop up right in front of you. This is home. It's been a long

flight, and it's time to set it down. You won't be able to see the field at all, though, unless you press the "U" key to get an unobstructed view forward. Near the end of those 3 or 4 minutes, keep checking over your left and right wings, as the field may pop up there. If it does, make a small course correction until it is in the center of your screen.

It's been said that take-offs are hardest on the plane, and landings hardest on the pilot. I hope you soon don't find out why they say this. This is the tough part, so pay close attention. I use a landing technique slightly different from that in the manual. When the field suddenly goes "3-D" (you can clearly see it as a landing strip), quickly power down four (4) clicks and put your full instrument view on (key "1"). If you came up on the field dead center, you will not be lined up with the runway, but perpendicular to it. Don't worry about it on this flight. The land is quite flat and you can land this plane almost anywhere. Pick out a spot such that if you WERE lined up with the runway, it would terminate at the hangar. Now push the stick forward (key "E") until that spot (or the NEAR end of the runway, if you happened to be lined up with it) is in the center of your gun sight crosshairs. You will have to fight the tendency of the plane to rise, so keep powering down gradually, taking off a click and recentering on the crosshairs, etc. When your altitude reaches 100 feet (the last indication on the altitude meter), pull back on the stick by pressing the "X" key until the hangar (or the FAR end of the runway, if you happened to be lined up) is in the crosshairs. Power should be at or near the lowest setting. Keep the hangar or far end of the runway in the crosshairs by pulling the stick back as often as necessary. Suddenly the scenery will "jerk" and in Mark 2 you will hear the tires squeal as they hit the ground. Cut all power with the "0" key. This landing technique uses a steep descent with a pull-up or "flare" at the end. If all went well the hangar will be right in front of you or perhaps you even parked in it. You won't see this view very long, since the program will reposition you facing North on the runway almost as soon as you stop.

Congratulations on completing your first Spad adventure. If you crashed or something went wrong, try it again. That's one of the nice things about a simulator, you can walk away from your mistakes! This flight has been based on one of the "scenarios" listed on page 18 of the Spad manual. It was greatly expanded to give you some tips on flying the Spad XIII. In upcoming flights, I will try to share more tips and tricks you can use to enhance your enjoyment of what is presently the best flight simulator available for the TI-99/4A. Until next time, it's been great flying with you.

TRADING TIMES

Bill Weiss of Des Plaines has a complete system for sale with a stand alone disk drive with power supply controller, an Axiom Printer interface, 32K, TI Writer, Editor Assembler, X Basic, Multiplan and most any other program you can think of. You can reach Bill after 6 PM at (312) 299-3882, or write Bill Weiss, 9507 Terrace Pl., Des Plaines, Il 60016. Bill says that no reasonable offer will be refused.

Phillip Brauer of Mundelein, IL also has a system for sale. He has a black console, never used, complete with dual cassette cables and cassette recorder, Mini-Memory, sever game and utility modules, and all

manuals. He also has books and magazine articles on TI assembly language programming. His asking price is $60. Call Phil evenings at (312) 566-8846 or write Philip Brauer 0261 Elmwood Ave, Mundelein, Il 60060.

NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES

Here is a list of available back issues of our newsletter. These back issues contain programming hints, program printouts, reviews, and news of the times. Some of these issues are collectors' items. Quantities are definitely limited. What we have will be available at the Faire. You may also order them by mail. Address your letters to Harold Shanafield in care of the group's post office box address. Be sure to enclose your check or money order; please do not send cash. Make all checks, money orders, or bank drafts out to the Chicago T.I. Users' Group. Please allow four weeks for delivery. In the case where we run out of an issue which you have ordered, you will be issued a credit which may be used towards your membership renewal, a library purchase, or an alternative back issue order. If you would prefer, a check for any money owed, can be issued to you. This is a great opportunity for you to complete your collection. Send in your orders now while ample quantities last. When they are gone, they will be gone FOREVER!

Super Summer Issue #1 - This is our very first Super Summer Issue. This is very definitely a collector's item. The price is $3.00, because of its rarity.

March 30, 1984 - 37 copies are left. As they are small, the cost for each will be only 25c apiece.

April 30, 1984 - 51 copies are left. As they are small, the cost for each will be only 50c apiece.

October 31, 1984 - 15 copies are left. As they are very small, the cost for each will be only 10c apiece.

Super Summer Issue: 1986 - 115 copies are left. As they are larger, the cost for each will be $2.00 apiece.

December 30, 1986 - 19 copies are left. The cost for each will be $1.00 apiece.

January 30, 1987 - 164 copies are left. The cost for each will be $1.00 apiece.

February 28, 1987 - 58 copies are left. The cost for each will be $1.00 apiece.

March 31 - April 1, 1987 - 56 copies are left. The cost for each will be $1.00 apiece.

April 30, 1987 - 101 copies are left. The cost for each will be $1.00 apiece.

May 31, 1987 - 79 copies are left. The cost for each will be $1.00 apiece.

Super Summer Issue: 1987 - 25 copies are left. As they are larger, the cost for each will be $2.00 apiece.

THE BASIC ASSEMBLER

by
Steve Peacock

RANDOM NUMBERS

In TI Assembly language random numbers are generated very differently than in TI BASIC. When the console is turned on the word at address >83C0 is different each time. This word (number) can be used as a random seed. The value that is at >83C0 can be the first random number. This number will be between >0000 and >FFFF (0 to 65535). To get another random number add any number to your address. This will give you a different address. The word (number) at the new address will be the next random number. Because your starting number will different each time, a random number will be generated.

In order to get random numbers that are within a certain range the command ShiftRightLogical (SRL) is used. This command moves all the bits in a word, a specified number of positions to the right. For example if register 5 has the word 00100000 and SRL R5,3 is used the new word is 00000100. The number 32 then becomes 4. This instruction can also be used to divide by 2, 4, 8, etc. The reverse can be used to multiply, ShiftLeftArithmetic, (SLA). The following table gives the ranges for random numbers, using different SRL instructions.

No shift	0-65535
SRL 1	0-32767
SRL 2	0-16385
SRL 3	0-8191
SRL 4	0-4095
SRL 5	0-2047
SRL 6	0-1023
SRL 7	0-511
SRL 8	0-255
SRL 9	0-127
SRL 10	0-63
SRL 11	0-31
SRL 12	0-15
SRL 13	0-7
SRL 14	0-3
SRL 15	0-1

If the random number generated is out of the range, that you want, then use a CI instruction to disregard the number. For example, you want a number that is between 10 and 100, use the SRL 9 instruction. This will give you a number that is between 0 and 127. Use 'CI R5,10 / JLT' and 'CI R5,100 / JGT' to the section that generates a random number.

In this month's programs 300 random numbers are selected and then an asterisk is printed to the screen. You will note that there might not be 300 asterisks

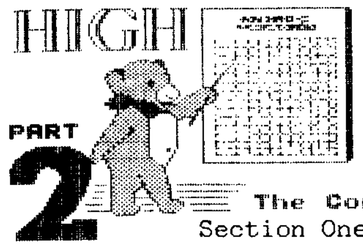
actually printed. This is due to the fact that duplicate locations may be selected.

```
##############################################################################

100 REM PROGRAM BA11B-->Basic Assembler #11 Basic Version
110 REM RANDOM NUMBERS
120 REM (C)1986 S. PEACOCK
130 REM YOU MAY WANT A 'CALL CLEAR' HERE
140 RANDOMIZE
150 ROW=(RND)+1
160 COL=(RND)+1
170 CALL HCHAR(ROW,COL,42)
180 COUNT=COUNT+1
190 IF COUNT<300 THEN 140
200 DISPLAY AT(24,6):"TASK COMPLETED"
210 GOTO 210
220 END

##############################################################################

******************************************************************************
*
*PROGRAM BA11A-->Basic Assembler #11 Assembly Version
*RANDOM NUMBERS
*(C)1986 S. PEACOCK
*
******************************************************************************
      REF  VSBW,VMBW
      DEF  START
START MOV  @>83C0,R3    *MOVE THE VALUE IN >83C0 INTO REG 3
      CLR  R3           *CLEAR REG. 3
RAND  MOV  *R3,R5       *MOVE THE VALUE IN REG 3 INTO REG 5
      SRL  R5,6         *MAKE IT A RANDOM VALUE BETWEEN 0 AND 1023
      CI   R5,768       *COMPARE IT TO 768
      JGT  GET          *IF ABOVE 768 JUMP TO GET (GET ANOTHER #)
      JMP  PRINT        *IF IN RANGE JUMP TO PRINT
GET   AI   R3,>1342     *SELECT A NEW ADDRESS FOR A NEW NUMBER
      JMP  RAND         *SELECT A NEW RANDOM NUMBER
PRINT MOV  R5,R0        *PUT THE RANDOM NUMBER IN REG. 0
      LI   R1,>2A00     *CODE TO PRINT AN ASTERISK
      BLWP @VSBW        *PRINT THE ASTERISK
      INC  R15          *INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ASTERISKS PRINTED
      CI   R15,300      *HAVE 300 ASTERISKS BEEN PRINTED
      JNE  GET          *IF NOT GET A NEW RANDOM NUMBER
      LI   R0,741       *
      LI   R1,MESG      *PRINT A MESSAGE TO LET YOU KNOW
      LI   R2,14        *TASK COMPLETED
      BLWP @VMBW        *
      JMP  $            *ENDLESS LOOP
MESG  TEXT 'TASK COMPLETED'  *MESSAGE TO PRINT
      END
```

HIGH RES GRAPHICS AND THE 99/4A

By Anne Dhein

The Comparison Chart

Section One: The Preliminaries

Part one of this article defines a drawing package as a program or group of programs that will allow the user to create graphics by turning on (or off) the smallest addresable unit of the screen - a single pixel. All of the currently available drawing programs for the 99/4A allow individual pixels to be placed anywhere on the screen and removed as desired, to create very detailed pictures. Drawings can be saved on disk (or in some cases tape) and later be reloaded for editing or printing.

As you know, all the 99/4A paint packages do much more than just this minimum. But the features present in a particular package, and how they are implemented vary widely. Section one of part two provides a chart to allow a feature-for-feature comparison of ten main drawing packages for the 99/4A.

The chart lists the name of each drawing package (in capitals) across the top. The drawing packages are on the chart roughly in reverse order of how they were introduced on the market - that is, the later ones are listed first. You can quickly tell whether a program has a particular function or characteristic by locating that function in the first column and then checking across the row to the column in which the program is listed. Over the next few issues, detailed information will be given for each of these functions.

If you are planning to purchase graphics software the first thing to ask yourself is, "What do I want to do with the program?" Looking at the chart, Program Focus refers to the primary purpose of a package. Three main uses for paint programs are for entertainment (E); as a production tool for producing letterheads, newsletters, flyers, etc. (T); or as a programming utility (U). Some of the programs do all three; others concentrate on just one aspect.

Norton Graphics, for example, is strictly a programming utility, and Paint 'N Print is pure entertainmemt. TI Artist is the best general purpose program by far, but nothing can beat Graphx for enhancing an artist's creativity. Joy Paint also excels in this area, and although lacking in color has production capabilities not found in Graphx. Draw 'N Plot can be used quite comfortably as a simple drawing board, but its real merit lies in its ability to interface with your own programs.

System Requirements

Before you purchase any program, check to make sure that you have all the hardware necessary to run that particular software. Two of the programs - Paint 'N Print and Super Sketch - can be used with only a console. Norton Graphics Package can also be run on just the console, using Extended Basic. The others require a disk system and 32K memory expansion.

Paint 'N Print, Super Sketch and three of the disk programs also each have an additional disk, sold separately, but which adds substantially to the program's capabilities. These disks are listed in lower case on the chart, under the main Program. The functions they support are starred (*). When Paint 'N Print and Super Sketch are used with their supplemental disks, they also need the expanded system. A cassette version of Extended Graphics is available for Paint 'N Print, but it still requires a 32K memory expansion unit. Paint 'N Print, by the way, won't work properly on my system with the widget. Plug Paint N' Print directly into the console and it works fine.

A few programs may not work with the Myarc and/or CorComp peripherals. Joy Paint, TI Artist and Graphx, along with most new software do work with any of the three controllers. The version of BitMac that I have does not work with a Myarc disk controller, but works with CorComp's. TI Artist works beautifully with the Myarc RAM disk but Joy Paint does not. Since most software companies are working constantly to keep their products updated to work with the newer hardware, peripheral compatibility is not covered on the chart. If you happen to have any of the newer peripherals, consideration to this should be given when buying software.

Printer compatibility is covered further down the chart but should be mentioned here as something to watch out for when buying software. It is very disappointing to get a new drawing package home, only to find the screen dump won't work with your printer!

Loading Requirements - With the exception of the Norton Graphics Package which is programmed in (and requires) Extended Basic, the software listed here is written in assembly language; therefore a module which can access assembly language is necessary. The three "loader" modules are Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler and Mini Memory. TI Writer's Option 3 can also be used instead of Editor/Assembler's Option 5. Some software can use any loader; other packages require a particular module which is listed on the chart.

Ease of Use and Method of Operation
Just as people are different, so, too, does each program seem to have its own "personality", or flavor. This rating should be looked upon as subjective and is given here only to provide one person's idea of how easy the program is for an average user to learn and to use comfortably on a day-to-day basis. The Norton Graphics package rates the lowest because it is slow and takes some patience. It is meant for Basic programmers.

Super Sketch is on the other end of the scale. It is so easy to use that a child who doesn't read well could comfortably use it with a minimum of instruction and supervision. Joy Paint, even though it does a lot more, is also very easy to use. Main drawing functions such as draw, erase, fill, using circles and lines, lettering, paintbrush, etc., are all easily selectable from the drawing board by a representative picture (known as an "icon"). More complex features and file management are immediately selectable by menu.

The other programs fall somewhere in the middle. Draw A Bit and Master Painter require the memorization of a number of function keys to use them properly, or else you had better have a list handy. The manuals for these two are also hard to read. Bitmac requires some key

memorization combined with the use of icons, but Bitmac's manual is much better.

Draw 'N Plot uses a simple menu and a few function keys. It doesn't have as many features as the others, but what it has is easy enough to use. The instructions are adequate, especially if you are a programmer.

Paint 'N Print is easy to use on a regular basis but there are a number of keys that need to be memorized which makes it harder to get started.

TI Artist and Graphx are not perfect, but both are comfortable to use on a regular basis, and very easy to begin using. TI Artist makes extensive use of icons for users who prefer them but also allows the faster method of pressing function keys for the various commands for those who want to memorize them. TI Artist does requires switching between two main programs and several auxilliary ones which can get tiresome even though it is all done within the main program. Graphx, like Bitmac, uses some function keys but provides an identifying strip for the top of the keyboard which makes them quite easy to follow. Graphx also uses menu selection for the less used features. Of all the paint programs Graphx has the best manual, which can be used as a tutor as well as a reference.

A final word on two more items which are not covered on our check list: availability and price. Most of the programs listed on the chart are readily available and can be purchased at any number of places, including Dhein's. Prices given are those charged at Dhein's, and may vary from place to place: Joypaint, $39.95; Joy Paint's Pal, $9.95; Bitmac, $19.95; TI Artist, $19.95; Artist Extras, $6.95; Graphx, 39.95; Draw 'N Plot, $14.95; Norton Graphics Package, $7.95.

Paint 'N Print, produced by Navarone Industries, is also readily available. I occasionally see Master Painter 99 by Amerisoft still advertised, and I believe you can still get Draw-A-Bit and Print-A-Bit from Data Force in Illinois. Since these addresses are easily obtainable from your user's group officers (or from me), I won't repeat them here.

Super Sketch, alas, is no longer made. It is included in the chart because there are still a lot of them in use, and you just never know when one might pop up for sale. Super Sketch is unique in that it has been the only pad and pencil type software released for the 99/4A.

Next issue: the common functions of drawing programs.

TI 99/4A DRAWING PACKAGES - COMPARISON CHART

FUNCTION	JOYPAINT: JoyPaint Pal	BITMAC	TIARTIST: Artist Extras	GRAPHX	DRAW 'N PLOT	PAINT'N PRINT + disk	SUPER SKETCH Skmate	MASTER PAINTER	DRAW A BIT Prnt-Bit	NORTON GRAPHIC PACK	
Prograa Focus	E,T	E,T	T,E,U	E,T	U,T,E	E	E,T	E	E,U	U	
Requireaents	Any	XB EA MM	Any	XB EA MM	XB	StndAl**	StndAl**	XB EX MM	XB	XB	
Ease of Use	6	3	5	5	4	4	6	2	2	1	
Method of Operation	Icons, Menus	Icons FcnKeys	Menus Icons	Menus Keys	Menu Keys	Keys	Menus	Icons Fnc Keys	Menu Fnc Keys	Menu/ Keys	
Joystk Control	Required	Required	Optional	Required	Optional	Required	No	No	Optional	No	
Cursr Speed Cnt	No	5 speeds	2 speeds	5 speeds	2 speeds	No	No	No	No		
Brush Styles	7	9	8	1	1	32	9	4	1-pixel	3	
Automatic Draw Functions	Lines, rectngls ellipses	Lines, Circles, Rectngls	Line,Ray Circles, Rectngls	Lines, Ellipses	Lines	Line,Ray Circles Squares	Line,Ray Rectngls	Lines, Rays	Lines, Rays,Arc	Lines, Parabola ellipses	
Fill Shade, Depth	AutoFill 24 Patrn AirBrush	Manual Color Life	AutoFill Col/Pat Yes	SemiAuto Color No	SemiAuto Solid No	SemiAuto Yes*	AutoFill Col/Pat Yes	No No	Manual No	No No	
Reflections	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Move, Copy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Flip, Hor/vert	Yes	H only	Yes	No	No	Yes*	No	No	No	No	
Rotate	90 deg.	90 deg.	Slides	No	No	No**	No	No	No	No	
Invert	Swapbits	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes*	No	No	No	No	
Magnify, Reduce	Yes	Yes	Mgnify**	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Text handling Special fonts	Yes Yes	Yes No	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Yes No	Yes Yes	No No	No No	No	No No	
"Zoom" Mode	Fatpixel	No	Yes	Yes	No	Magnify	No	No	No	No	
Scratchpad Mem ("Clipboard")	Cut and Paste	Store B. input	Instance Slides	Clipbrd	No	Yes	No	Symbols, Store	Palette	No	
Use of Color	No	Full Use	Full Use	Full Use	Limited	20 colrs	Full Use	Full Use	Full Use	No	
Slide Show	No	Yes	No**	No**	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	
Undo	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Spec. Features	Larger Wrk Spce Pat Edt*	CoProcsr CrsrRprt Pic.Scrl	Instance customize	Animate fm Clpb GridTool	9 Addl Commands for XB	PatrnEd Rainbow Colors	Touch Tablet		Redraw Connect-Dots	Cassette version too!	
Printer	Epson Axion	Epson, TI 850/5	Most Printers	Epson	Epson	**Most Printers	Epson	Epson	Epson	** Most Printers	
Screen Dumps	2 sizes 2 dnsty	Small SD Med. DD	Wide Ch Size,Den	2 Sizes 2 Dnsty	1 Med	1 Large NormDnst	1 Large NormDnst	1 large NormDnst	2 sizes 2 dnst	No	
Disk Catalog	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
File Convrs Ftr	Yes*	No	Yes	No**	No**	No**	No**	No	No**	--	
F/Portability	Not at Present	Limited	Easily	Prog Skl in Assem	Prog Skl in XB	No	No	No	Prog Skl in Assem	Easily to XB	
Addl Support	Some	No	Lots	Lots	Some	No	No	No	No	No	

* Starred features are found on the companion disk listed under the main package ** See chart notes

THE PASCAL ADVENTAGE

MIKE MAKSIMIK

Last month's article ended with a multicolor mode demonstration program. If you haven't typed it in, do it! If you don't understand it, simply walk through the code. In multicolor mode, the way your screen mapping function works is dependent on the establishment of the character patterns on the screen. In fact, in multicolor mode, the area used for graphics 1/text modes is used for colors instead. The equvilent in extended BASIC would be plotting squares using the CALL CHAR and CALL CHARPAT functions, plus some string functions for manipulation of the character patterns recieved of these functions. Unfortunately, not enough characters are available in extended basic for redefinition and screen mapping. As it is, about half to three-quarters of the screen could be mapped. The other parts of the screen would be characters that are not accessible to extended basic, but the PEEKV and POKEV funtions of E/A BASIC could be used, provided one knew the structure of the tables in VDP RAM, and also wanted to write a function that could QUICKLY convert between hex and decimal. I'll leave that to RICH KLEIN.

This month's discussion will be DOS use and manipulation. Many of us have had exposure to a BATCH type system, where a list of commands is stored in a startup file, and are subsequently executed when the system is booted. The p-sytem also supports this, to a much greater extent. It supports the BATCH feature with a CONCURRENT PRIORTY QUEUE, which I will discuss later. Now however, lets discuss how to build your batch file. One way to start is to use the system level M)onitor command. At the moment you want to build your batch file, type M. This will bring the monitor menu up. To start the session, type B for B)egin. You are then prompted for a filename. To execute this file, it need not have a suffix. If you would like to edit it in the future, add the commands, because a monitor file is in .TEXT format, with a file header automatically created. After you type the filename, press ENTER. After the file is created, type R for R)esume. This allows you to start your monitor session. Note that, while in monitor mode, no M)onitor menu keypresses are remembered. You may then do what you wish. Press the keys to setup your printer port using the MODRS232 code file. Any code file may be executed. In fact, you can creat multiple batch files, eith by executing a pascal program that uses the CHAIN command, or by simply executing the batch file. I will get into that later also. You may do any execution, any legal keypress, whatever you wish. when you are done, return to the main menu. Type M to re-enter the monitor menu. You may choose to save the file by pressing E for end. Or you may abort the file by pressing A. In addition, you can suspend the monitor for a while so you can do some tasks that you do not want recorded. You may then R)esume with the R command, in any case. The system will tell you of the queue's status. If you do choose to E)nd, then there are a number of things you can do. You can E)dit the monitor file, for example, if I wanted the system to boot up and load the filer, I would press F after starting the monitor. I then press D for current date change. I then set the date as usual. Note that ALL keypresses are recorded, including mistakes. The date I just entered is also part of the monitor, so I will delete them from the monitor file, and leave only the commands up to D for date set. The monitor file should look like this:

```
F
D
```

Now to execute the file. You can do this by writing a pascal program with the following commands, providing your monitor file has the file name START1.TEXT :

```
Program System_Start(Input,Output);
Uses (*$U COMMANDIO.CODE*) COMMANDIO; (*note--the file COMMANDIO.CODE must
be the default disk drive, usually #4*)
begin
CHAIN('I=START1.TEXT');
end.
```

Next, compile this program. Make sure COMMANDIO.CODE on the COMPILER disk is in the root or default volume. In order for this program to compile and execute properly, the file must be in disk drive 1 (volume #4) when the system is turned on. C)ompile the program, and choose any arbitrary name for the code file. Then, go to the F)iler and C)hange the compiled (CODE) program name to SYSTEM.STARTUP and T)ransfer this file, if necessary, to the disk which will always be in drive number 1 upon powerup. The result should be a system prompt for the date. At the FAIRE, I will have a special clock rading program for those of you that own a MBP or ADE clock. This will automatically set the system date for you. Using the same techniques, here is a monitor file I setup:

```
X
#9:MODRS232
R
RS232/1.BA=9600.DA=8.PA=N.EC
X
I=REMIN: O=REMOUT:
```

First I use the X)ecute command. You can execute a .CODE file with this command, or you can startup a batch file created with the monitor. I first run the utility MODRS232, which comes on the utility disk. I then select R to rename the remote in/out port to RS232 #1 at 9600 bps and 8n1 without echo. Then I X)ecute a simple batch command. There are 6 major batch commands:

```
L changes the default library textfile
P changes the default prefix
PI changes program input
PO changes program output
I changes system input
O changes system output
```

The L command is used by programmers like me who, once in a while, wishes to use procedures and functions in a UNIT other than the default SYSTEM.LIBRARY. P allows you to set up any volume as the default, the F)iler command Set P)refix does the same. PI will redirect program input to come from a file or device other than the usual keyboard. Note that intrinsics such as UNITREAD, UNITWRITE, BLOCKREAD, BLOCKWRITE, and the like are unaffected by the PI as well as PO commands. PO simply allows your program to write its output to a file or device, such a printer. These commands can be used from within a program also, by using the CHAIN command. The format for X)ecute and CHAIN are the same: they are interchangable. If for example I wanted to cause the last batch command to be executed from within a program, this will work:

```
CHAIN('I=REMIN: O=REMOUT:');
```


or by pressing X at system level and then responding to the prompt WHAT FILE? with
I=REMIN: O=REMOUT:

and then press enter. All commands separated by a space are put in a priorty queue and will be executed as the previous command is finished. You can clear the queue, also. To clear the last entry, use the CHAIN command:

```
CHAIN('');
```

Which clears the last entry in the queue. The most useful commands are the I and O for redirecting system input and redirecting system output. With these commands, you can control the system from a remote terminal, either one directly connected to the RS232 port or through a modem connection. It's like a remote system in a card!! You can also get system input from a disk file, i.e. I=START1.TEXT and all the commands in your text file will be executed by the system. You can sit there and watch your computer run itself! You can use Pascal to check for system errors, and configure your system for a remote 80 column terminal, such as an ADM-3A or similar terminal. Use the SETUP utility to create a special SYSTEM.MISCINFO file to set up your computer to respond to 80 columns and VT-100 or VT-220 commands. you can even program complex control sequences for executing color change commands for your terminal, windowing, etc. And all from your TI!! Your terminal will have full access to the system, unless you decide not to give privelege to that person. Then you can have a pascal program take control on powerup and remain running throuought the terminal connection. Note that, the keys for <BREAK> <FLUSH> <STOP> and so on can be special sequences that only YOU know. That is how versitile the system can be. Right after the last meeting, I tried it with another TI connected direct and 4A/talk running as the terminal program on the other computer. I setit up at 9600 bps, and it worked perfectly. Note that with a MYARC or CorComp RS232, sppeds up to 19200 are available. To those of you with a PC clone, this is a great chance to take advantage of 80 column PASCAL! Imagine full scren editing with 80 columns! The p-system is already set up for this, sothere will be NO incompatibility. Even an inexpensive terminal, like the ones used to connect to mainframes are compatible. you can connect a speaker to your video output DIN plug and have audio, and turn off your TI monitor/tv set. Then if calling from remote, you can program to computer to 'speak' or 'sound' for you when you are gone to summon assistance from remote. The possibilities are endless. You can cause the computer to sound a high-pitched tone which can activate a 'whistle' switch nearby, turning on appliances, lights, etc. and have inexpensive home remote control. You can leave messages for others, spool output to a printer attached to your system, and so on. The list is endless. I just don't have enough space or time to show all of the possibilities. I leave you open for that.

The music program is nearly finished, and it really sounds good. I am currently designing the graphics interface for inputting notes/key signatures/dynamics/etc. and it means getting down to pencil and graph paper. While I am busy at school and work, I still find time for my computer. (I don't sleep, I SCUBA DIVE.) The sound lists you create with the music program may be ecorporated into your own programs to mix with graphics, words, or calculations(?) An interesting turn--sound processing is so independent of program control that it will continue to create sound as your program runs--so long as you program runs. Sound lists will not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41

library shelf

— Bob Demeter —

Procrastinator. In some dictionaries you may see my picture next to that word. Others just say, see Demeter, Bob'. Why do I always wait till the 14th or 15th of the month to write my article? Maybe it's cause I dislike paperwork so much. Just ask my boss. I'm always late getting it turned in. There's something about taking pen in hand. Or, in this case, keyboard in hand. All of a sudden I get real itchy. Itchy to play with some of the new programs in the library.

Ahhhh! That felt good. Will McGovern just scratched my itch with his new fairware program. Will has put Funlweb to rest for a while. He's come out with 2 new and different programs. The one I really like is called DISK HACKER. Have you ever wondered what a track or sector looked like on a disk? Have you ever been curious about how some of the protection schemes are used? Well, DISK HACKER tells all.Version 1 only works on the T.I. disk controller. But, Will says,"If the damand is good, I'll write a Myarc and Corcomp version". This really means if contributions with letters asking for another version are received. Will states checks are hard to cash from the U.S. He said cash in Air Mail is usually safe. I'm not sure about money orders. Anyway, let's talk more about DISK HACKER. After the program is loaded, it will ask for a drive number. Answer 1-3 depending on which drive a disk is in. Next answer if the DRIVE not the disk is single or double sided. Will explains how tracks are laid out on a disk. This helps with the next 2 questions. Starting and stopping tracks. The documentation then goes on to explain CRC and Data Addressing. The last prompt asks if you want to check these. In the upper section of the screen is a window. It keeps you informed of what is happening with the program. Pressing the spacebar starts the track reader. The tracks are displayed in the window. After all the designated tracks have been processed, the screen changes. Now we are in the second half of DISK HACKER.

In the documentation, Will goes on to explain the information on the tracks. And, it's importance to the disk. The second screen now displays 2 windows. The 1st window tells which drive, side, and track you're on. The 2nd window shows the track number, sector # with interlace, length, data address and CRC information. The DISK HACKER disk for example showed track 0 as having 9 sectors on it. The interlace was 4. Sectors were laid out as 0,7,5,3,1,8,6,4,2. Each sector was 256 bytes in length. The data address used to tell the sector seperation was there. There were no CRC abnormalities. Next I checked some protected disks I had. There it was. All laid out for me. One disk said sector 255 on track 0. This should have read 2. Another disk only had 9 tracks initialized. Another disk gave bad track, sector and lenght info. Track 240, sector 224, length 1024? Very very sneaky the way they protect these things.

DISK HACKER 1.1 won't let you make any changes to disks. But, it sure tells ALL about them. Next time one of my disks gets corrupted, it may just help me find the problem to correct. Will states that a version 2 may be on the way that may do more. But for right now, I think he has a winner right here. DISK HACKER - 1 SS/SD $2.00

As long as we're on the subject of Will McGovern let's talk about fairware release # 2. TRACKER. This one is for Myarc disk controllers only. Up till now, not many people have written too many things that will work with a Myarc controller. Not all programs, but some. I understand a lot of programmers only had T.I. cards. I've also been told Myarc lays his controllers out differently then T.I. or Corcomp. Someone told me something about VDP or lower memory Myarc was using that programs usually use. As more people get and work with Myarc cards, these obstacles are overcome. Will McGovern can now add himself to the list of people that have written track copiers for the Myarc card. TRACKER as mentioned earlier is only for the Myarc card. Being a Myarc owner, I miss having a good track copier. If you haven't got a commercial track copier for your Myarc controller, I suggest this one. It's fairware and it's in the library for only $2.00.

Before I go on much further, I'd like to add a comment. Our local users and members may already know this. But, I'd like the entire membership to know. We've lost a very dear friend to the group. Jack Topham lost every T.I. article he had this summer. I understand Jack had 8' of water in his basement. The flood of 87 took everything he had. Damages were extensive. Most things were unreplacable. Jack survived the ordeal but has given up on T.I. This is a big loss to our group. Jack was a big contributor to the group and an even bigger supporter of T.I. Those that knew him know he personally bought just about every new piece of software out. And he always donated to fairware authors. I for one will miss him and his articles. His software reviews were outstanding. His demos at group meetings were the best. The man had a total understanding of what he was doing. Jack also read about 135 newsletters a month from other user groups. From these he wrote his article "From the other Orphanages". Jack, thanks for all you've done and given us. Thanks for being a friend to myself and the group. I wish you much success in your new ventures. I bid you peace and love. May GOD bless you always.

Jack's 2 successors are Paul Farber and Chuck Levitt. Paul too has a thorough understanding of what he's doing. I have much respect for him. I think he is an excellent choice to do program reviews. Chuck seems to be a really good organizer. He ran things quite well at the Sept. meeting. I think he'll make a very good Events chairman. Welcome to your new positions guys. I wish you the best.

Has anyone been wondering what James Schroeder's been up too? I know. He has 2 new fairware programs out. One is an update to RE- DISKIT. It now works with the Myarc disk controller. RE-DISKIT as you may recall is a very quick track copier. Source disk goes in drive 1. Target disk in drive 2. RE-DISKIT will initialize the target disk to match the format of the source disk. Then 1,2,3 it copies just like that. The new RE-DISKIT now supports all 3 disk controllers. $2.00

How many Ram disk owners do we have? They seem to be getting very popular. There's at least 5 companies making them now. But, not too many programs will recognize them. Mr. Schroeder's RAM TO DISK will though. This program will work with any Randisk that's set at CRU >1000. It will take the contents of that RAM and track copy it to drives 1 and 2. Why would I want to do that you say? Well, you surely can see what a help it is to librarians. Those of us that copy hundreds of programs for meetings. But, how many of you have gone to a copying party? You know

the kind I'm talking about. Not all of us have access to all the public domain stuff out there. So, a few people get together and share what they have. This program will let you make 3 or 4 copies in a flash. The less time you spend copying a program, the more you can copy in an hour. Even just for backing up your Ramdisk it's nice. You'll spend less time then with the conventional sector copier. Especially if you have 512K of RAM to backup. Try RAM TO DISK. It's now in the library on a SS/SD disk. Only $2.00

Who is Sheray Worley? Does she know Pat Sajack? We'll find out next meeting. How many of you can solve this puzzle in 30 seconds? It's a rhyme. CCCC CCC CCCC CCCC CC CCC CCCC. At the Sept. meeting I demoed a fairware program called Wheel of Fortune. John Behnke, Carole Goldstein and I didn't even have time to count the squares when someone shouted out,"I know the answer". Just like TV. Someone in the audience is always smarter then the contestants. "What is it", I said. "Jack and Jill went up the hill",came the reply. I asked Sheray how she knew that. I think she said,"I got 3 kids". That did turn out to be the correct answer. I have petitioned the group to give Sheray a shot at the Studebaker next month. Too bad Vanna White couldn't make the meeting.

Terry Staph has given the T.I. world a new fairware program. I caled it Wheel of Fortune. But, the title screen calls it TERRWARE. This game pack includes Blackjack, Jokerpoker, and Wheel of Fortune. I'll be honest. I haven't tried Blackjack yet. Jokerpoker is like 7 card stud, I think. You get 7 cards. Then you tell the computer which cards to discard. These are replaced by new ones. First you should have placed a bet. If you can't come up with Queens or better, you lose. The game that gave me the most enjoyment was Wheel of Fortune. This game looks and sounds just like the TV show. Only thing missing is Vanna White. The game can be played with up to 3 players. 3 rounds are played. The player with the highest score after round 3 goes on to play a bonus game. Gee, if Terry could only figure out how to give us Vanna White and some of those expensive gifts they offer. I think the game is great. If you spin, the wheel makes a clicking noise. There's a big database of puzzles which looks like it could be updated. The puzle screen looks just like the TV game. And when you solve the puzzle, it plays the same sounds used on TV. Bonus rounds are played just like the game show. You enter 5 consonants and 1 vowel. You then have 60 seconds to solve the puzzle. I'm giving Terry an A+ for his fine program. Look for it in the library under the name TERRWARE. I have a few copies named Wheel of Fortune for now. Check it out. $2.00

Boy, I have so much to talk about and so little time and space to do it. Not having time to make the Super Summer issue, I have a lot to say. I could probably write 15 pages myself. The programs I have for the T.I. and 9640 are piling up. I demoed TIKEYS and TICKLER at the Sept. meeting. I'll tell you more about these as well as others next month. Since June I've received the March or May release of Funlweb 3.4. I've also received DM 1000 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8, Masstransfer 4.3, Omega, French Pak, XB TOOLS, Enhanced Display Package, PCB/LABEL, and CATLIB 1.5. These will all be discussed next month. I will also have a complete list of all fairware we have available in the Oct. issue. This will bring us up to date in time for the 87 Faire. The fairware list will be included as a pullout. You'll then be able to add it to yor library catalog.

Before I go I have 2 more things to say. Number 1. The software Jack

spoke about in the summer issue is NOT in the library. I do not have any copies of them. I will see what I can do about getting it. When I have it I will mention it here.

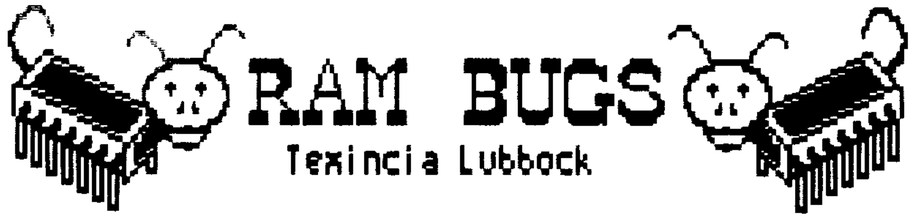
Second, I've added a new feature to the library. As you know, we have a regular library and a fairware library. I am now adding a 9640 support library. I have full access to all the latest 9640 programs. I've decided to make them available to you. I've been in touch with Myarc. They've given me the go ahead to add thier copyrighted 9640 programs to our library. Myarc says these programs can only be used by 9640 owners anyway. And, as such, you are entitled to them. So, starting next month, I will have available the newest DOS, MYWORD, CSAVE, CLOCKSET and support programs. The 9640 support library will also include programs like FASTERM, DM 1000, and PRBASE. These have all been modified for the 9640. Another feature of the library will be HOW TO programs. Such as how to make a monitor cable. We'll also have T.I. module dumps. I've talked with T.I. They could care less what we do with the modules. So, I have a ton of modules to add. A list will be available in Oct. If you think you have any T.I. 9640 module dumps you'd like to share, please send them to the library. I'll get them faster if you send them directly to me. Bob Demeter 2139 Lake Ave. Whiting, Ind. 46394-1833. As with the other library, you'll receive 1 free program for every 1 of yours we use.

One last word. You can take it as you please. When I called Myarc on 9/14, I was told the following: MYWORD and MULTIPLAN are done. DOS is 2 days away. Myarc hopes to have everything done by Oct. 30. Registered owners will receive thier final disks from Myarc then. So, if you haven't sent in your warranty, better do it quick. I wish Myarc he best. We may be the first to see the finished DOS at the 87 Faire. Don't forget the date. Sat. Nov.7 at Triton College.

THE PASCAL ADVANTAGE
continued
from page 37

execute by themselves, they are concurrent and must be accompanied by something other than JUST another process or moving sprites. You can set flags in the music lists, however, to coordinate the sounds with the rest of the program, like the type SEMAPHORE for process communication.

The SIG hopefully will occur at next meeting: this month it was postponed due to my activity with the library. I can now get the p-system utilities and program disks (which are now public domain) to whoever needs them. Just order them from the library as usual. The cost will be $2.00 each disk (there are 4 disks) to cover postage, mailing insurance, and disk. Please do this through the post office box addressed to LIBRARIAN or MIKE MAKSIMIK. I now have mailersand disks and will get the library rolling as soon as you order. I will also have these disks available for duplication at the meetings at no cost, just bring some disks. Hopefully we won't be so busy at next meeting. (Knock onwood three times, the FAIRE is just around the corner everyone) Please try toattend the SIG. Also, if you call any BBS's outside the chicago area, let othr TI'ers know that we support the p-system and have a pascal SIG. If you cal out BBS, leave me mail, public or private. My user number is 318, and I frequently call the BBS. Have fun!!



TEXINCIA LUBBOCK - Super Summer Issue - 1987

SF=3 AVERAGE=2.88 YTD=23

How good it is to be back home after spending the entire summer and the latter part of the spring in our *Nation's Capitol, Washington, DC.*

You see, I was contacted by the law firm handling the matter of *Lt Col Oliver North* in the Congressional Investigation of the Contra Affair, to coach Col North in his public speaking - so he would have more confidence, and to help his lovely wife, *Mrs Oliver North* in her decisions about her makeup and daily attire when she was to appear before the press.

It certainly is nice to be appointed to so trusted a position by someone in such a powerful position. Needless to say, the benefits of spending so much time in Washington during the summer more than outweigh the necessity to give up my time in the midwest for the summer. My only complaint would have been what I felt was the extraordinary heat of the Washington summers, but *Carole* informs me that the heat was much worse here than there.

While in Washington DC, I was treated to many lavish partys and the occasion to rub elbows with some of Washington's finest. The gossip traded at those parties is second only to the rumor mills started by our own *Don (Sports Fans) Jones*

It was total horror when I returned home Friday, only to find O'hare a virtual island, surrounded by the political murk of Cook County and Chicago Political waters. But, after sitting in the sauna of O'hare for a few hours waiting for things to return to "normal", I decided to do what so many others were doing and make the muddy walk to civilization and transportation.

God may have promised to never deluge the earth with another forty days and forty nights, but he never did promise not to outright drown us on short notice.

My residence was fine, but then it is a little difficult to flood a 14th floor apartment, isn't it? *Carole Goldstein* and her neighbors, on the other hand, underwent a thorough washing of their basements and all the

items within them when they flooded with more than six feet of water. I understand the group's board was mostly saved and will only be down for a few days until everything has the opportunity to completely dry out.

Speaking of disasters, I understand that not too many people are overwhelmed with joy about the new *GENEVE* computer. First, it doesn't work, Second it doesn't work, and Third, it doesn't work! After years of promises for what was to be the ultimate replacement/upgrade to the *99/4A), the GENEVE* turns out to be real turkey dung. If I didn't know better, I would say that the company is really owned by *COLECO* and is nothing more than a re-packaging of the *ADAM* so they could use up all those left over parts and pay for their disastrous losses in the research and development departments.

Time will ultimately tell, but don't necessarily get rid of your *99/4A* yet and rush out to by a *GENEVE* - THE HEADACHES AREN'T WORTH IT!

Rumors about this years *FIFTH ANNUAL TI FAIRE* (to be held in November) are everywhere. Even *NANCY* asked about it while I was in *Washington.* She seemed to be a little disappointed when I told her I didn't think the audience would be interested in her *"JUST SAY NO"* speech.

When she stated she might drop in anyway, I informed her that most of the area hotels were booked for the weekend that week because of the *GALA SOCIAL MIXER* planned for that friday evening, but promised, however, to put her and the President up for the weekend at my apartment if she and Ronnie wanted to come into town.

Well, I'm going to have to cut this month's article short so I can go out to Franklin Park and check on *Nick Iacovelli's* basement. Such a shame, all this water and not being able to have any fun in it.

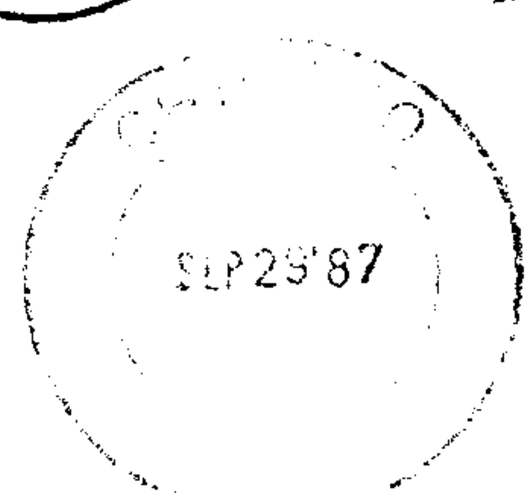
In case you've been wondering what the centered caption which has appeared at the top of each article since the beginning of this year is all about, I'll have the answers in the *SUPER WINTER ISSUE* to be published in December. In the interim, I have an authentic *champaign glass* from a *State Dinner in the White House* as a prize to the first person who can identify what the abbreviations are and correctly identify what the numbers next to each abbreviation indicate.

Write your answers and/or guesses on a post card. Enter early and often. Send your entry to: TEXINCIA'S CHAMPAIGN GLASS CONTEST, In Care of MR GRANT and the CHICAGO TI USER'S GROUP, PO Box 578341, Chicago, IL 60657-8341. No purchase necessary to play. Winner need not be over any specific age. Contest not open to residents of the Soviet Union, Iran, or the Bahamas. Good Luck to all!

See you at *DON'S FAIRE* and the September meeting.

EDITORS NOTE: This article was to appear in the Super Summer Issue. At that time it was swallowed by Geneve.

CHICAGO TI USER'S GROUP
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago, Il 60657



REMARKS

Carole Goldstein

Well, here is another astounding issue of the Chicago TImes. Astounding because I still can't believe that its out. This month besides being plagued by the Geneve which I won't even get into, we have had other problems. A combination of a new modem and power outages have made some of the articles that should appear within these pages impossible to get. One of our most respected contributors, Jack Topham, has lost his system among other things to flood waters and will no longer be submitting articles. Paul Farber will take over writing the review column but we are still looking for someone to take on the monumental task of reading newsletter from groups all over the country to sift out information for the Orphans article.

Special thanks to Don Jones this month who tried to help save all the newsletter articles from a crashed board by downloading them and re-uploading them again. And thanks also to those who got frantic calls to re-upload their articles when that effort didn't work.

It suprises me that people are still putting their faith in the Geneve 9640. At least with a larger user base, maybe some of the problems will be worked out. I am holding my fingers (tongue) this month because I really hope that a lot of the problems can be worked out. I hear rumors that MyWord, the word processor I have been using has been completed. So it is with great hope and anticipation that I close this month and say I'll see you at the meeting.